

The HIGHLANDS Current



Page 14

NOVEMBER 29, 2024

OUR 650TH ISSUE

Support our nonprofit: highlandscurrent.org/join



The Beacon reservoir on East Mountain Road North in Philipstown on Nov. 7. Photo by John Peters

Local Reservoirs Remain Thirsty

*Well users also urged
to conserve*

By Leonard Sparks

Last week's rainstorm slaked some of the thirst of local reservoirs but not enough as Beacon and Cold Spring keep water restrictions in place and the owner of a digging company warns well owners to also conserve water amid an ongoing drought.

(Continued on Page 7)

Judge Pauses Jan. 6 Case

*Attorney cites Trump
promise of pardons*

By Chip Rowe

A federal judge has paused the prosecution of a Newburgh man accused of assaulting police officers during the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

On Nov. 20, Judge Carl Nichols indefinitely postponed the jury trial of Edwin Lang scheduled to begin this month. Lang argued that it was likely that Donald Trump would pardon him once he becomes president on Jan. 20. At the judge's request, prosecutors requested a new trial date of Jan. 27.

Accused of multiple violent felonies, Lang has been incarcerated since his arrest 10 days after the riot. The FBI said he can be seen on videos attacking police officers with a bat.

William Pepe, a former Beacon resident who was convicted on Oct. 23 of a felony and four misdemeanors, on Nov. 11 asked for his case to be paused until Jan. 20 because of a potential pardon. His sentencing is scheduled for March 11. According to prosecutors, Pepe was the president of the Hudson Valley chapter of the Proud Boys and helped coordinate the attack. Now living in New Jersey, he remains free until sentencing.

In other pending cases, Gregory Purdy, a 2016 Carmel High School graduate living in Hopewell Junction, and his uncle, Robert Turner, each asked to be released from custody pending their sentencing because Trump has promised pardons.

(Continued on Page 6)

Fishkill Avenue: Zoning Could Come First

*Committee chair provides
progress report*

By Jeff Simms

The citizen committee studying the Fishkill Avenue corridor in Beacon is more than 50 percent finished with its work and could soon issue preliminary zoning recommendations to the City Council.

That was the most significant takeaway from a status report that committee Chair J.C. Calderon delivered to the council on Monday (Nov. 25). While firm dates were not discussed, Mayor Lee Kyriacou said that he and City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis would

meet with Calderon, who is a former Planning Board member, and Natalie Quinn, the city's planning consultant who is advising the committee, in the next two weeks.

A batch of recommendations could follow, with more potentially to come.

Kyriacou created the 11-person committee in January (since then, three members have dropped out and one was added) to study zoning, streetscapes, non-vehicular access and other questions related to the northeast section of Beacon, although most of Monday's discussion focused on Fishkill Avenue (Route 52). The group has met monthly since March, with subcommittees

(Continued on Page 7)



GIVING THANKS — Diane Landtroop of the Cold Spring Lions Club (left) presents on Nov. 23 a \$1,000 check to Maria Helbock, coordinator of the Philipstown Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church in Cold Spring. Volunteers from the food pantry joined the presentation.

Photo by Leo Grocott



A donation box being prepared for delivery at Second Chance Foods

Photo by B. Cronin

Hunger in the Highlands:

Falling Behind

*A flood of government stimulus
and aid helped keep the worst
effects of the pandemic at bay
for millions of Americans.*

*But with the end of those
programs, economic and food
insecurity are on the rise
and the groups responding
to the growing needs of local
residents are finding it
difficult to hold the line.*

By Brian PJ Cronin

When I visited Second Chance Foods in the fall of 2021, the space was cramped and frantic.

Volunteers bounced around the small kitchen, chopping up a gymnasium's worth of donated produce at an ever-increasing pace so that it could be quickly cooked into nutritious meals. Dishwashers and squash scrubbers took turns at the same sink. A storage closet had been turned into a walk-in fridge by jamming in an air conditioner and jury-rigging the temperature control so the unit never shut off.

America throws out about 40

(Continued on Page 10)

5 FIVE QUESTIONS: GREG STOWELL

By Joey Asher

Greg Stowell is the newly hired superintendent of the Garrison school district.

How did you get your start in the field?

I come from an education family. My father was a director of special education for Southern Westchester BOCES and director of special education for the Putnam Valley district. My mom was the assistant superintendent for business for the Pelham district. But I didn't always know that's what I wanted to do. When I was 15, I had a summer job at a YMCA camp in White Plains as a counselor in training. When the head counselor quit, they gave me that job. The minute I started engaging with the kids and developing activities, I thought, "I love doing this. This is incredible."

You began your career in special education. Was there a moment when you felt you had made an impact?

When I worked in the Chappaqua district, there was a third grader who was dyslexic. She was smart but could barely read. She had a couple of sight words. No phonemic awareness. No ability to decode words. After a year, we got her nearly to grade level. Maybe 10 or 15 years later, I was eating dinner at the Blazer Pub



near Purdys. This young lady came up to the table. I didn't recognize her but she reminded me of her name. She said: "Mr. Stowell, I just want to tell you that, because of you, I was able to read, and now I'm in college studying to be a teacher."

Why did you transition to administration?

I wanted to have an impact outside of the four walls of the classroom, and the only way to do that is to go into educational leadership. My philosophy is: "What's your why? Why are you in this business?" My why is to improve outcomes for students. At Garrison, it's iterative. We're working to improve literacy. We're working on our next phase of environmental education and

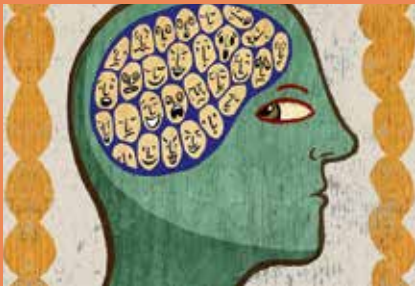
sustainability. We're looking to leverage our 182-acre forest by working with Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES. We're taking a hard look at next-generation learning standards and what we need to equip our kids to be successful.

You've been superintendent for four months. Has anything surprised you?

Every school system I've been in has been larger. My last district, Eastchester, had 3,100 kids. We have 214 in Garrison, not including those in high school. The one thing I wasn't prepared for is how different it is leading a school with one or two classes per grade. It's wonderful because you can impact kids quickly, but we don't have the same resources as a larger district. When we want to do big, bold things, we have to be creative. For example, we put on a Youth Climate Summit where we bring in 180 kids from multiple districts. It gets bigger every year. We're realizing that it's hard to pull that off with few people, educators and custodians. We're starting to engage with partner districts to maybe co-sponsor it.

What is your life like outside work?

My wife and I live in Bethel, Connecticut. I have a daughter who is a freshman at American University in Washington, D.C., and a son who is a junior in high school. We have a dog named Josie. She's a rescue. We're avid skiers and love to go to Vermont and sometimes out west. Every summer we visit Acadia National Park in Maine, where the hiking is incredible. My wife's family has been going there for 50 years. It's a family tradition. We go to the same cabins in the same place.



THE NOBLE CROSSROADS: BUDDHIST TEACHINGS & MODERN PSYCHOTHERAPY

Wed, Dec 4 @ 6:30 PM
Beahive Beacon

An exploration of where the Buddhist Dharma and Internal Family Systems merge, led by IFS practitioner Dan Doniger.

Free but please RSVP.



THE SHOP and THE STUDIO
AT
HHH
Thursday, Friday, Saturday | 12-5P
35 Chestnut St. | Cold Spring, NY | (845) 666-7377
— UNIQUE & FABULOUS HOME FURNISHINGS —
ARCHITECTURE — INTERIOR DESIGN

BEACON, NEW YORK

artisan wine shop

where food meets its match

www.artisanwineshop.com

845.440.6923 • 180 main street, beacon

your source for organic, biodynamic & low-intervention wines, ciders & spirits since 2006

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Do you embrace or shun Black Friday?

“ It feels like it’s a month long now. ”



Lauren Daisley, Cold Spring

“ I don't care! ”



David Moroney, Nelsonville

“ I’m a shunner, but I like Cyber Monday. ”



Sarah Uzelac, Beacon

NEWS BRIEFS

Philipstown Approves
2025 Budget*Spending, tax rates increase*

The Philipstown Town Board on Nov. 20 approved a \$13.1 million budget for 2025 that raises the townwide tax rate by 2.4 percent while boosting pay for ambulance corps employees and funding a part-time building inspector.

Overall spending will rise by 1.5 percent and the tax levy, \$9.7 million, by 2.7 percent. Property taxes townwide will rise to \$3.47 per \$1,000 of assessed value, and outside the village by 0.37 percent to \$3.81.

Several revisions were approved, including raising hourly pay for Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps employees to \$22 from \$18, adding \$40,000 to cover salary and benefits for a building inspector the town will share with Putnam Valley and appropriating \$15,000 for grant-writing services.

The supervisor's salary will remain \$27,000 annually and the four Town Board members will each continue to earn \$18,000.

Sheriff Makes Arrest in
Philipstown Burglary*Man allegedly broke into Route 403 home*

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office said on Nov. 22 it had arrested a Wappingers Falls man in connection to a May 28 burglary in Philipstown.

The sheriff said a deputy had been sent to a residence on Route 403 after a contractor working at the property noticed someone had broken into the home. Using forensic evidence collected at the scene and other leads, investigators identified a suspect and on Nov. 18 arrested Jason Pellerin, 37.

He was arraigned in the Town of Philipstown court on felony charges of burglary, criminal mischief, grand larceny and criminal possession of stolen property and sent to the Putnam County jail in lieu of \$10,000 cash bail or \$20,000 bond.

Beacon Police Make
Arrest in Killing*Third suspect arraigned in 2022 shooting*

The Beacon Police Department announced on Nov. 22 that it had made an arrest in the May 2022 killing of Lionel Pittman Jr. in a Forrestal Heights parking lot.

Zyree Downing, 24, of Middletown, Delaware, who is incarcerated in a Pennsylvania prison, was brought by officers to Beacon to be arraigned on a first-degree murder charge in Pittman's death. He was then sent to the Dutchess County jail.

Police earlier this year arrested Naije Perrette and Khyree Pratt in the case. They said there are no further suspects.

Pittman, 32, was shot and killed on May 14, 2022, at the Forrestal Heights complex on West Center Street. Officers responded at 6:50 p.m. to a report of shots fired.

State Distributes Arts Grants

Highlands organizations receive \$230K

The New York State Council on the Arts on Nov. 18 announced the recipients of \$62 million in annual grants to 1,497 nonprofit organizations and 509 artists.

In the Highlands, the recipients include Hudson Valley Shakespeare, Manitoga, the Garrison Art Center and the Putnam History Museum (each receiving \$40,000), the Philipstown Depot Theatre (\$49,500) and Bannerman Castle Trust (\$10,000).

The Garrison Art Center also received a \$10,000 grant for a 2025 exhibit by visiting artist Jeremy Dennis. The Putnam Arts Council was awarded \$10,000, plus \$75,000 to redistribute as grants.

Happy Pup Organizes Drive

Benefits ARF and two other shelters

Happy Pup, a dog-walking and boarding firm, is organizing a holiday drive to benefit the Animal Rescue Foundation in Beacon and two other shelters.

Donations of dog and cat food, old blankets, bleach and large garbage bags can be dropped off through Jan. 3 at The Yard, 4 Hanna Lane; King + Curated, 530 Main St.; or Butterhead Salad, 208 Main St.

Donations also will benefit Pets Alive in Middletown and the Walden Humane Society. See [instagram.com/happypupdw](https://www.instagram.com/happypupdw). Checks to support the drive can be mailed to Happy Pup, 30 Blossom Lane, Wallkill, NY 12589.

MTA Approves Manhattan Toll

Cars to pay \$9 below 60th Street

Passenger cars entering Manhattan below 60th Street will pay a \$9 toll beginning Jan. 5 under a revived program to reduce congestion and generate billions for capital projects, including Metro-North stations in Beacon and Philipstown.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority's board approved its "congestion-pricing" plan on Nov. 18, five months after Gov. Kathy Hochul ordered the plan suspended amid backlash over the \$15 initial fare.

The new starting rate will apply to passenger cars and small commercial vehicles such as vans during peak hours and drop to \$2.25 after 9 p.m. Those rates will rise to \$12 daily and \$3 overnight in 2028, and then to \$15 and \$3.75 in 2031. Motorcyclists will initially pay \$4.50 and commercial trucks and buses from \$14.40 to \$21.60.

The program includes discounts, including for low-income drivers, and exemptions for school buses and emergency vehicles.

Supporters of the toll say it will reduce traffic congestion in lower Manhattan and raise \$15 billion for new buses and trains, station upgrades and other capital projects.

According to an analysis by the Tri-State Transportation Campaign, the toll will affect 2 percent of Putnam County commuters and 1.1 percent in Dutchess.

The HIGHLANDS
Current15
YEARSCovering and
Connecting our
Communities...
and We're Just Getting Started!

2024



Thank You To All Our Members!

The Highlands Current exists for everyone in Philipstown and Beacon because of you! Membership is our primary means of support, providing more than 62% of the revenue for our independent nonprofit news organization. **Now is the best time to become a member because your gift will be doubled!** We have a match in place from Newsmatch and a group of community members. **The first \$75,000 we raise will be doubled, that means \$150,000 for our newsroom!**

Your gift lasts all year long when you become a monthly donor of \$10 or more, and you will receive our tote bag to show you support local independent journalism. If you are a current member, switch to \$10 or more a month or upgrade your current monthly donation by \$5, and you can get a tote bag too!

Please join or renew your membership now.

WE NEED YOU!



The HIGHLANDS
Current

PUBLISHER
Highlands Current Inc.
Board of Directors:
Damon Banks, Christine Bockelmann,
Gwendolyn Bounds, David Duffy,
Kyle Good, Nicholas Groombridge,
Todd Haskell, Robert Lanier, Mel Laytner,
Joseph Plummer, Frances S. Reilly, Jia Jia Ye

FOUNDER
Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

EDITOR
Chip Rowe editor@highlandscurrent.org

SENIOR EDITOR
Leonard Sparks

BEACON EDITOR
Jeff Simms

REPORTERS
Jacob Aframian • Joey Asher
Brian PJ Cronin • Joe Dizney
Pamela Doan • Marc Ferris • Deb Lucke
Nick Robbins • Michael Turton

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Ross Corsair • Skip Pearlman

STUDENT JOURNALISTS PROGRAM
REPORTERS: Nadeen Ahmed, Charlotte
Bowen, Ash Marcus, Annabelle
Notarthomas, Kayla Selander (*Beacon*);
Lincoln Wayland (*Haldane*); Jude
Morrison (*St. Regis*); Clara Tripp
(*Fieldston*) / PHOTOGRAPHERS: Leo Grocott
(*Haldane*), Aron Li (*Beacon*)

LAYOUT DESIGNER
Pierce Strudler

GROWTH DIRECTOR
Lauren Cook

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Michele Gedney
• For information on advertising:
845-809-5584 | ads@highlandscurrent.org
highlandscurrent.org/ads

MEMBERSHIP
Emily Hare membership@highlandscurrent.org



The Current is a nonprofit venture
supported by donations from its members.
To join, see highlandscurrent.org/join.

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT
(USPS #22270) / ISSN 2475-3785

November 29, 2024
Volume 12, Issue 48

is published weekly by Highlands Current
Inc., 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819.
Periodicals Postage Paid at Cold Spring, NY,
and at additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send
address changes to *The Highlands Current*,
142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819.
© Highlands Current Inc. 2024

All rights reserved. No part of this
publication may be reproduced in any form,
mechanical or electronic, without written
permission of the publisher.

NYFA* Winner: 139 Better
Newspaper Contest Awards

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR (2021-23)
* New York Press Association, 2013 - 23

NNA* Winner: 127 Better
Newspaper Contest Awards

* National Newspaper Association, 2016 - 23

NYNPA* Winner:
34 Awards for Excellence

* New York News Publishers Association, 2017 - 23

Tell us what you think

The *Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor (including from comments posted to our social media pages) to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length, and to remove personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published. For our complete editorial policies, see highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Assessments

It would've been nice if you had contacted me, the Philipstown assessor, regarding the recently filed lawsuit ("Philipstown Sued Over Assessments," Nov. 22).

You would have found that, per a review of the sales in question, we discovered a complete residence — a part of one of the buildings — that had never been valued for tax purposes since the last revaluation. In fact, this is why sales reviews are completed each year, not only for inventory and condition but other factors such as this.

Assessments are adjusted, if necessary, on many properties each year due to these reasons and, yes, other commercial properties were adjusted for 2024. When adjustments are made, notices are sent out to owners and, if unsatisfied, the grievance procedure can be followed to claim an overvaluation.

This owner did not do so, and although he said he tried to "work it out" in September after the school tax roll was completed, it was legally too late to do so. Please try to report on both sides of a story in the future, and thanks.

Brian Kenney, *Philipstown*
Editor's note: Thank you for this further information. The town has not yet filed its response to the lawsuit. We emailed Supervisor John Van Tassel for comment before

publishing the story, but he did not respond.

Filling bowls

On Nov. 17, St Mary's in Cold Spring was filled to capacity with kindness, optimism and care for the Filling Empty Bowls fundraiser to benefit Fareground. Families of all kinds came with their babies and grandparents, to choose a handmade bowl, fill it with soup and break bread with each other. There was singing and a sing-along, laughter and hugs. For those few hours, the sun shone through the windows and we got to remember what it feels like simply to be together.

Thank you to all the amazing people who supported Filling Empty Bowls. Thank you for your generosity in supporting our food justice efforts and renewing my hope for a better tomorrow. I'm so proud to be a part of this community.

Alicia Leeds, *Beacon*

Firehouse

I was surprised and disappointed to see *The Current's* limited coverage of the Nov. 16 dedication of the Beacon Fire Department's new central station ("Open for Business," Nov. 22).

Nearly 300 community members attended the celebration, a historic event for the City

of Beacon and a salute to our first responders, past and present. Costing \$14.7 million, the 17,000-square-foot facility is the largest capital project in the city's history.

Beacon's decades-long transition from three firehouses operated by volunteer companies to a central fire station with primarily career firefighters has spanned four mayoral administrations and at least nine City Councils. Over the years, scores of community leaders, along with experts and volunteer and career firefighting staff, have spent countless hours working to plan for the future of the Fire Department.

The fact that this day was so long in coming makes our community all the prouder of our new station. Many Beacon community members had watched the building take shape over the past two years and eagerly awaited the dedication and a chance to tour the facility.

I am a 32-year Beacon resident, and I organized the committee that spent several months planning the dedication ceremony. Our committee members included Denise Doring VanBuren, president of the Beacon Historical Society; volunteer firefighters Tom DiCastro of Beacon Engine, Matthew Naughton, president of Mase Hook & Ladder Co. and Bill Plimley, president of Lewis Tompkins Hose Co.; Chief Thomas Lucchesi; City Administrator Chris White; and Ben Swanson, assistant to the mayor.

Events like this firehouse dedication occur once in a generation. Small municipalities across America are facing challenges like those confronting Beacon of aging facilities and declining volunteer firefighting resources. In this context, Beacon's firehouse is a stunning achievement in improving public safety and infrastructure, and a cause for celebration.

Given *The Current's* recurring *Looking Back* feature on local history, you missed the opportunity to create the commemorative press coverage that this dedication deserved. Such coverage would become a historical record of this event.

Positive stories that bring our community together are rare and sorely needed in these times. By not covering this dedication, I feel you have not been listening to a broad section of our city residents and have missed the mark in your Beacon coverage.

Elizabeth Barrett, *Beacon*
Barrett is the wife of Mayor Lee Kyriacou; a longer version of this letter appears online. For our coverage of the project, see highlandscurrent.org/firehouse.

Beacon development

The project next to the Telephone Building in Beacon would be built on a drive-

(Continued on Page 5)



How They Voted (from Page 5)

Trump to extinguish the life of any nonprofit, of any civic society group, which happens to be on his enemies' list."

Lawler ☒ | Ryan ☐

Regulating Vehicle Emissions

The House on Sept. 20, by a 215-191 vote, passed a resolution (H.J. Res. 136), sponsored by Rep. John James (R-Mich.), to disapprove of and void an Environmental Protection Agency rule restricting greenhouse gas and other emissions from cars and other personal and light industrial vehicles. James said that by requiring at least two-thirds of new cars to be electric by 2032, the rule would drive up costs for commercial and personal transportation, hurting the economy at large. A resolution opponent, Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ), called it a move to "roll back common-sense air pollution protections" that "puts the profits of corporate polluters over the health and safety of the American people."

Lawler ☒ | Ryan ☐

Forest Management

The House on Sept. 24, by a 268-151 vote, passed the Fix Our Forests Act (H.R. 8790), sponsored by Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), to change forest management practices on federal government and tribal lands. Changes would include speeding regulatory reviews of forest management plans, promoting public-private partnerships and establishing procedures for prioritizing forests with the highest fire hazards. Westerman said "reducing the risk of wildfires will lower wildfire suppression costs, allowing us to invest more in proactive, preventative forest management." An opponent, Rep. Katie Porter (D-Calif.), said: "If we genuinely want to protect our communities and environment from devastating wildfires, we must prioritize people, ecosystems and the economy. This bill fails to do each of those things."

Lawler ☒ | Ryan ☐

Retirement Investing

The House on Sept. 18, by a 217-206 vote, passed the Protecting Americans' Investments from Woke Policies Act (H.R. 5339), sponsored by Rep. Rick Allen (R-Ga.), to

require fiduciaries of employer-sponsored worker retirement plans to use only pecuniary factors to evaluate investments. Allen said: "Retirement plan sponsors should invest their clients' hard-earned money in a manner that maximizes financial returns and minimizes risk, period." A bill opponent, Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.), said: "Workers should be able to invest in a way that reflects their values, whether combating climate change or promoting health and labor standards."

Lawler ☒ | Ryan ☐

Israel, Palestine and Product Labels

The House on Sept. 18, by a 231-189 vote, passed the Anti-BDS Labeling Act (H.R. 5179), sponsored by Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY), to authorize the continuation of U.S. customs regulations for the labeling of products from the West Bank or Gaza Strip. Tenney said: "This bill ensures that there is no distinction in labeling between goods made in Israel and Israeli-controlled areas of Judea and Samaria." An opponent, Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.), said it "requires products from large portions of Palestine, including on illegal settlements defined

under international law in the West Bank, to be labeled 'Made in Israel.' "

Lawler ☒ | Ryan ☐

Sex Crimes and Immigration

The House on Sept. 18, by a 266-158 vote, passed the Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act (H.R. 7909), sponsored by Rep. Nancy Mace (R-S.C.), to make sex and domestic violence crimes grounds for deportation of unlawful U.S. residents. Mace said: "Each and every sex crime or act of domestic violence committed by an illegal alien was preventable. They have no single right to be here today." An opponent, Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), said: "The overly broad definition and lack of any waiver authority in this bill would result in extremely harsh and unintended consequences, including the removal of survivors of domestic violence."

Lawler ☒ | Ryan ☒

Myron Struck is the editor of Targeted News Service in Washington, D.C. The Current posts vote summaries weekly online when Congress is in session. See highlandscurrent.org/tag/how-they-voted.

Jan. 6 (from Page 1)

They also requested new trials.

On Monday (Nov. 25), a judge denied the motions and scheduled sentencing for Dec. 9. Purdy and Turner have been incarcerated

since their felony convictions in June. Purdy's younger brother, Matthew Purdy, convicted of two misdemeanors, was released and will also be sentenced on Dec. 9.

Christopher Finney of Hopewell Junction, arrested in February and charged with two

felonies and five misdemeanors, agreed on Oct. 18 to plead guilty to a single felony count of obstructing, impeding or interfering with law enforcement. The judge has not scheduled sentencing.

According to the Justice Department, 1,561

individuals have been charged with crimes related to Jan. 6, including 590 accused of felonies for assaulting or impeding officers. That includes at least 10 men from Putnam and Dutchess counties and Newburgh. By one estimate, about 140 police officers were injured.



BROTHERS TREE SERVICE CORP.

Licensed and insured

Serving Putnam, Dutchess and Westchester counties

Small company with competitive pricing. Try us!

914-906-2596 — FREE ESTIMATES

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

Call us for all aspects of tree care, including:

▪ Emergencies	▪ Cabling and Bracing
▪ Trimming and Pruning	▪ Planting
▪ Takedowns and Removal	▪ Plant Health Care
▪ Stump Grinding	▪ Land Clearing

brotherstreeservicecorp.com

Certified Arborist
#NY-5763A #NY-325767

LICENSED AND INSURED Putnam License #PC8148
Westchester License #WC32958-1420

Schedule your visit with Gergely Pediatrics

At Gergely Pediatrics, our team is dedicated to keeping your child healthy and thriving by offering:

- A collaborative practice
- Board-certified pediatricians and licensed pediatric nurse practitioners
- A welcoming environment for patients from all behavioral and developmental backgrounds

Our team of dedicated professionals includes:

- Peter Gergely, MD
- Janet Eisig, CFNP
- Danielle Chiaravalloti, CFNP
- Sarah Green, CFNP

Call 845-424-4444
to schedule a consultation

Learn more





Gergely Pediatrics
Boston Children's Health Physicians

Music Lessons

Instruction in guitar, bass, saxophone, woodwinds, piano, jazz, Irish music

Many Years Experience, Beginners to Advanced • My studio or your home

Call or text
Lindsey Horner, 917-846-7020

Drought (from Page 1)

Mayor Kathleen Foley said on Monday (Nov. 25) that a storm passing through the Highlands from Nov. 20 to 22 dropped 2.5 inches of rain on Cold Spring, creating mountain runoff and an 8-inch increase in the Upper Reservoir's water level. That still left the village's reserves at 59.7 percent of capacity, said Foley, below the threshold of 60 percent that triggered a Stage 2 water emergency on Nov. 6.

Among the conservation measures required of residents, bed-and-breakfasts and eateries are to identify and repair leaks, cease washing cars and building exteriors, and to only provide drinking water to restaurant customers upon request. If water reserves fall below 45 percent, Cold Spring would have to draw from New York City's Catskill Aqueduct, at a cost of \$1,000 per day for the 300,000 gallons residents and businesses use daily.

"We thank the public for their conscientious use of public water, and ask everyone to keep conserving in every way possible," said Foley.

On Tuesday (Nov. 26), Ed Balicki, Beacon's water superintendent, said the impact of the recent rain and snow on the city's three reservoirs will not be known for several weeks, but is unlikely to end the Stage 1 water emergency announced on Nov. 20, although it may allow to city to avoid tightening conservation measures.

Beacon received 3.3 inches of rain from Nov. 21 to 23, according to the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network, a system of volunteer weather observers. Snow also fell on Mount Beacon, home to one of the city's reservoirs.

City Administrator Chris White said earlier this month that the city's two main reservoirs — the Cargill reservoir and the one atop Mount Beacon — were at 60 percent capacity. However, the city's third

reservoir, the Melzingah, is offline this time of year and is nearly full.

Along with residents and businesses served by reservoirs, those using water supplied by groundwater wells should also be conserving, said Henry Boyd, who owns the Boyd Artesian Well Co. in Carmel. The water table "has really dropped off," and some of the telltale signs of a depleted well include a drop in pressure and dirty water, said Boyd, who has been recently "cranking out" estimates for people.

"I have a ton of people waiting — just getting by," said Boyd, whose customers include some in Philipstown. "And you tell them, go to the laundromat to use our laundry, don't flush the john as often as you used to and just try to conserve."

About half of the town's then-9,400 residents relied on well water, according to a groundwater study released in 2007. (Philipstown's current population estimate is 9,861.) Precipitation, which averaged 48 inches annually at the time of the report,

is the principal source of replenishment for those underground water supplies.

According to the report, most of the replenishment occurs in the spring and fall. In the winter, the frozen ground does not absorb as much precipitation, and in the summer, heat causes rainfall to evaporate.

Even without a drought, drillers have had to go deeper into the bedrock aquifer beneath Philipstown, according to Boyd. People desire bigger homes, personal water use is higher and development not only brings more water users but also paved surfaces that prevent rain from seeping underground, he said.

Residents who need a new well drilled or an existing one deepened are surprised at the costs — \$5,000 to \$10,000 to deepen a well and \$10,000 to \$15,000 to dig a new one, said Boyd. A new pumping system adds \$5,000 to \$10,000 to the price tag, depending on the well's depth, he said.

"Everybody's shocked at how much it costs," said Boyd.

Fishkill Avenue (from Page 1)

concentrating on zoning and streetscapes.

The former is further along. "The zoning subcommittee definitely has some solid ideas, they just need to get them down and formalized and get the full committee's support," Quinn said. After that, they can be sent to the council.

It was Council Member Amber Grant on Monday who asked if she and her colleagues could "lock arms" on a first tranche of zoning revisions and then return to the issue once the committee has completed its work. The urgency, she said, is evident after this month's Planning Board meeting, which marked the beginning of the city's review of a proposal to convert the former Healey Brothers Ford dealership at 420 Fishkill Ave. to a Dunkin' coffeehouse with a drive-thru, additional commercial space and three apartments on the second floor.

"Are there some things from the zoning aspect that we could take a look at really quickly and get into place to minimize the stuff that we absolutely don't want to be happening" on Fishkill Avenue, Grant asked.

Another council member, Molly Rhodes, agreed, likening preliminary recommendations to the low-cost "quick fixes" that the Main Street Access Committee submitted to the council in 2020, nearly two years ahead of its full report.

Calderon also introduced a series of hand-drawn sketches that, if finalized, would give the council multiple scenarios to consider for adding or improving sidewalks and street trees along the corridor. Three of the four sketches include adding bike lanes to Fishkill Avenue, which should please the members of the Beacon Bicycle Coalition.

Members of the coalition and its supporters have flooded the council with public comments in recent weeks advocating dedicated lanes for cyclists on the busy thoroughfare.

Calderon's update made frequent reference to a trail that's been proposed for the dormant Metro-North rail bed that runs mostly parallel to Fishkill Creek, recommending trail connec-

tions at seven sites in the corridor, including near Lank's Automotive, the former Healey properties and the Hudson Baylor recycling center. Dutchess County issued a report this month on conditions along the 13-mile segment of railroad from the Beacon waterfront to Hopewell Junction, where, if built, the trail would connect with the Dutchess Rail Trail and the 750-mile Empire State Trail.

The report notes that the corridor is in good condition and introduces two options: converting the corridor into a trail or constructing a trail adjacent to the railroad tracks. A detailed analysis of the options will follow in a separate report, but "the study team did not find any issues that would preclude the conversion of the corridor to a trail," it said.

The Fishkill Avenue committee is also studying walkability in the area and may "strongly" advocate sidewalks on both sides of the road in its final report, Calderon said. "My goal is to make Fishkill Avenue a place that you want to go to, not a place that you have to go to," he said.

248 Tioronda request

The council could vote on Monday (Dec. 2) on a developer's request to be issued certificates of occupancy (COs) for 64

apartments at 248 Tioronda Ave.

The developer, Bernard Kohn, constructed the apartments in two buildings overlooking Fishkill Creek but did not construct a third, commercial building at the same time, which was a condition of approval in the Fishkill Creek development zone.

Kohn asked the council in July to authorize the COs because he has been unable to land a tenant for the unbuilt commercial structure. In response, the council adopted amendments to the zoning requirements that permit COs for residential buildings before commercial with "good cause shown" and with conditions as the council "deems appropriate."

On Nov. 25, Kohn and his attorney offered to convert two, 1-bedroom apartments in the complex to below-market rental rates, in addition to the six affordable units already required by the city's zoning. If the council accepts, Kohn said he would continue seeking tenants for the third building and report back next spring.

Some council members were unimpressed with the offer while Kyriacou noted that, through lost rent and administrative costs, it could cost Kohn \$300,000 for each apartment he converts.

After some debate, Kohn upped his

offer to convert a 1-bedroom unit and a 2-bedroom unit to affordable status (an increase of an additional bedroom). With Kyriacou dissenting, the council asked Kohn to add two more apartments to the affordable column, possibly for five years, after which they could revert to market rate.

Kohn and the attorney, Brad Schwartz, said they would consider the request and return for the Dec. 2 meeting.



HIGHLANDS CHAPEL
Home of the Highlands Choral Society

THIS SUNDAY:
JACQUELINE
FOERTSCH
"AFTER
THANKSGIVING"
DEC 1 @ 11:00AM
FOR WORSHIP
REFLECTION
& SONG

Dec 8 May Hill
Dec 15 Christmas Concert:
Selections from Handel's
Messiah Part I
Dec 22 Lessons and Carols

The Highlands Choral Society is a nonprofit
organization offering nondenominational
services and community.

216 MAIN STREET COLD SPRING, NY
HIGHLANDSCHAPEL.ORG



45 Market St.,
Cold Spring



SATURDAY, DEC. 7, 7:30PM

Natalie Forteza
Christmas by Candlelight



SATURDAY, DEC. 14, 1 & 3PM

Carnival of the Animals

For tickets and information on these and other Chapel events please visit chapelrestoration.org



Around THE Region

Colonie

Trooper from Mahopac Injured

A New York State Police trooper from Mahopac was seriously injured on Nov. 2 when he was struck by a vehicle on Interstate 87.

Nicholas Abbondola, who graduated from the academy in October 2023, was hit by a pickup truck while a tow truck driver loaded a stalled vehicle. The tow truck driver was also injured.

Jason Guerin, 40, of Malta, was charged with felony aggravated vehicular assault and driving while ability impaired by drugs and sent without bail to the Albany County Correctional Facility.

Salt Point

State Trooper Arrested

A New York State Police investigator was arrested by the FBI on Nov. 21 at the headquarters of Troop K, which serves Dutchess, Putnam, Westchester and Columbia counties.

Michael O'Flaherty, 42, of Poughkeepsie, a trooper since 2013, was charged with two

counts of obstructing an official proceeding and two counts of false statements.

According to the United States Attorney's Office, in 2022 state and federal agencies investigated a fentanyl pill distribution ring linked to overdose deaths in Dutchess County. Investigators identified a trafficker who they learned had been a confidential informant for O'Flaherty, who offered to assist.

Instead, according to the criminal complaint, O'Flaherty alerted the trafficker to the investigation, helped him avoid arrest and attempted to identify an informant who was assisting investigators.

Wappingers Falls

Village Drops Overnight Patrols

The village announced Nov. 13 that its police officers would no longer patrol between midnight and 8 a.m.

In a news release, the village said patrols would be provided by the New York State Police and Dutchess County Sheriff's deputies.

"This decision was made after exhaustive consideration, dialogue and review of the options available to us," the village said. "The challenges we face in staffing our police department are shared by municipalities across the nation, as communities everywhere contend with a well-known shortage of police personnel.

"Our village is further constrained by civil service regulations that limit the hours many of our officers can work. Despite ongoing

efforts to secure waivers, adjust shift schedules and hire new officers for over six months, we are still grappling with these challenges."

Peekskill

City Approves Third Dispensary

The Peekskill Planning Commission, at its Nov. 14 meeting, approved a third cannabis dispensary for the city.

NYSafe 420 plans to renovate the ground floor space at 1719 Main St. occupied by Beer World, according to *The Peekskill Herald*.

The commission granted NYSafe 420 a special permit, preliminary site plan approval and associated parking waivers, with the condition that the business does not remove any windows, adds trim colors to match the neighboring plaza and moves a handicap spot closer to the entrance.

Peekskill already has two dispensaries (Valley Greens and Cloud 914), a micro business on John Walsh Boulevard and a manufacturer, The Art of Flower Farm.

Fishkill

Prison Guards' Privacy Breached

The names, job titles and Social Security numbers for hundreds of state prison guards and employees were given to at least two inmates in a security breach at the Fishkill Correctional Facility, a union representative told *Mid Hudson News*.

The representative said an offender rehabil-

itation coordinator informed the superintendent on Nov. 17 of the breach, which occurred two weeks earlier. The prison has about 2,000 inmates, and the union said guards were conducting searches. Three copies of the list were recovered, and inmates who worked in the law library and all prisoners who made copies that equaled the number of pages in the leaked document were searched.

Kingston

State Offers Affordable Housing Grants

New York State on Nov. 21 announced it would give \$40 million to 18 nonprofits and municipal governments to repair and rehab up to 600 vacant apartments into affordable housing.

The program offers up to \$50,000 to small landlords to renovate vacant rental apartments for lower and middle-income tenants. The money can be used for health and safety upgrades, correcting code violations, accessibility modifications, environmental remediation and general repairs.

In Dutchess, Putnam and seven other counties, \$5 million will be distributed by the nonprofit RUPCO Inc. to rehab up to 80 apartments. RUPCO owns or manages 771 rental units in 23 developments in Ulster, Orange and Greene counties.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.



THE COLD SPRING CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

COLD SPRING AGLOW

A festive weekend of community and shopping local
FRIDAY DEC. 6—SUNDAY DEC. 8
this year's community cause supports Be A Friend Project

LEARN MORE AT COLDSPRINGNYCHAMBER.COM/AGLOW

THANK YOU TO OUR
PARTNER LEVEL SPONSORS



'Significant Concerns' Over Route 9 Plan

Planning Board asked to pause review

By Leonard Sparks

The Philipstown Conservation Board has requested that the Planning Board pause its review of a proposed gas station with a Dunkin', a commercial building and a solar farm on Route 9 amid "significant concerns."

In a letter to the Planning Board, Conservation Board Chair Andy Galler said Misti's Properties 3070 Inc.'s plan for the former Automar property could adversely affect the town's aquifer, and Clove Creek and its floodplain.

Misti's did not have an appearance scheduled for the Planning Board's Nov. 21 meeting, but the board reviewed Galler's request to delay action on the company's application until the Conservation Board can visit the site, through which the creek runs.

"I think it's appropriate for the board to pause processing of the application until the CB [Conservation Board] has a chance to investigate," said Stephen Gaba, the Planning Board's attorney.

Based in White Plains, Misti's Properties introduced a two-phase project on Sept. 19 for the 27-acre property, a former service garage at 3070 Route 9. Phase One called for demolishing an existing 3,000-square-foot structure and replacing it with a 4,000-square-foot building shared by a gas station, convenience

store and a Dunkin' with a drive-thru.

According to the project documents, the station would have four gas and three diesel pumps and require underground storage tanks. Misti's also proposes an 18,000-square-foot "flex" building with storage for contractors and a small office, with potential space for a loading dock and truck parking lot. A solar farm is planned for the second phase.

Galler said the Conservation Board's "initial thoughts are this may be too intensive development for this site." He also said the company needs to update "inadequate" project documents and have "clearly flagged" for the visit the footprints of buildings, paved areas, fuel tanks and the septic system.

Misti's has already suffered a setback before the Philipstown Zoning Board, which needed to provide a variance because eateries with drive-thrus are not allowed in the Highway Commercial Zone. The Zoning Board rejected the company's request for a variance on Nov. 4.

Hudson Valley Shakespeare

The Planning Board also scheduled a public hearing for Dec. 19 on Hudson Valley Shakespeare's application to build actor housing on its property on Route 9.

In place of hotel rooms, actors would spend the festival's season living in one of five residential buildings forming an L-shaped compound in the northwest section of HVS's 97-acre property. Four of the buildings — two-

story cottages totaling 1,000 square feet each — would have two separate bedrooms with a private bath on each floor, and a kitchen and living area off the entrance.

An additional 16 one-bedroom units with kitchens and bathrooms would be contained in a fifth "barn" building totaling 2,500 square feet. Attached to the building is a common kitchen and dining area, along with a laundry room. Set among existing and newly planted trees, the buildings would have gray metal roofs and natural wood siding.

Philipstown law would prohibit artists from occupying the housing for more than nine consecutive months. During its off-season, HVS would be allowed to rent the units to guests for stays of less than a month.

Members of the Planning Board visited the site on Nov. 17. "It's actually a beautiful spot and it is very secluded," said board Chair Neal Zuckerman.

Hudson Highlands Reserve

A second public hearing will be held Dec. 19, this one for Hudson Highlands Reserve and the homeowners' association bylaws and rules for its 24-home development on a 210-acre property bounded by Horton Road, East Mountain Road North and Route 9.

The Planning Board also approved a special permit allowing Horton Road LLC, the project's developer, to disturb steep slopes as it builds out the property's access road from Route 9.



GARRISON ART CENTER

1964 • CELEBRATING 60 YEARS • 2024

HOLIDAY POTTERY SHOW & SALE

December 7 - 15, 2024
11 am - 6 pm

Members-Only Preview:

Dec. 6, 1 - 5 pm
Members receive 10% off during
Members-Only Preview

Everyone is invited to the Opening Reception:

Dec. 6, 5 - 7 pm

garrisonartcenter.org
23 Garrison's Lndg, Garrison, NY 10524

Come join the festivities at our beautiful historic venue!



FOIA Love: an evening of hilarious humor inspired by actual, bizarre public documents, like the FCC's complaints about 'The Big Bang Theory' being too violent.

Thur. Dec 5 - 8 PM
FOIA LOVE

A Comedy Show About Public Records

Featuring an award-winning bluegrass band.

For info & tickets: bit.ly/foialove_hcc

Fri/Sat Nov 29/30 - 12-5 + Sun Dec 1 - 11-3
HOLIDAY GIFT SHOW & SALE

Gifts for everyone on your list. Celebrate the season by shopping locally and supporting 29 artists and makers!
Thru Dec 23 Fri, Sat, Sun & the week of Dec 15 - 21

Sat. Nov 30 - 8 PM

WESTCHESTER JAZZ ALLIANCE QUARTET

Charley Krachy, SAX, Dave Frank, PIANO

Fr Stan Fortuna, BASS, T-kash Inuoe, DRUMS

For info & tickets: bit.ly/WJIAQ-HCC

Dec 1 - HCMC's LUMINOUS BEING

Dec 4 - UNESCO Story Circle

Dec 6 - LIT LIT

Dec 7 - MIGHTY GIRL & The Judith Tulloch Band

Dec 8 - HCMC's CFK Nutcracker

Dec 14 - THE RETURN OF THE YEAR END HOOTENANNY

HOWLAND
CULTURAL
CENTER



Visit, website + social media for more events, info + tickets

HOPE

Join us as our children light
the first Advent Candle
for HOPE in a complicated world.

Wonderful Music & A Welcoming Community

Sunday, December 1, 10:30 am
Church of the Open Door
10 Academy Street, Cold Spring



Bow Wow Haus

Want to take a day trip to the city? Get a jump start on holiday shopping? How about a few hours at a spa guilt-free because you know your dog is having a blast?

We're **Bow Wow Haus**, fun and safe doggy daycare. Loved and trusted.

Your pet will enjoy a spacious fenced-in yard, doggy friends, and free run of our home. Capacity limited to seven dogs.

Want to learn more?

Nancy Bauch at 914-483-6230

Overnight boarding available

Hunger *(from Page 1)*

percent of the food it grows, and more than 47 million Americans don't have enough to eat. At first glance, it would seem that you could solve both problems by keeping food out of trash cans and redirecting it to food pantries. Storage and shelf life are two of the biggest obstacles standing in the way of that. How can you get perishable food to someone right away? And what if they don't know what to do with 3 pounds of kale and a turnip?

Second Chance bills itself as a "food rescue" organization, a cross between a food pantry and a soup kitchen. They gather food — be it from a field or a supermarket — that's a few days away from expiring, and extend its life by turning it into fully prepared meals. The meals are then portioned out into individual servings, frozen (further extending shelf life) and donated.

It's an operation that runs on generosity and volunteers. While both of those things are in ample supply in the Highlands, cooking space is not. The organization was having to refuse donations and leave food rotting in the fields because, at its space inside the Community of the Holy Spirit in Brewster, there wasn't enough room to process and store it all.

Then they found out that they would have to move: The space was being turned into a music camp. Disaster was averted when a 4,700-square-foot space once used for 60 years as a catering kitchen became available. Second Chance moved in this past spring.

Visit today and it's as bustling as ever, though nowhere near as confined or hectic. Volunteers spread out across several rooms, with separate sinks for dishwashing and food prep. Multiple walk-in coolers — real ones — are filled with donated food, as are a walk-in freezer and several chest freezers. A new energy-efficient heat pump whirrs away in the corner, and an ample loading dock makes it easy to accept the large donations that Second Chance finally has enough space to store.

"This kind of space does not exist anywhere," says Martha Elder, Second Chance's executive director. Three years ago she was the organization's only full-time employee; now she's one of three, in addition to three part-time staff. About 300 people now volunteer with Second Chance throughout the year, up from about 50 in 2021. Even the location itself, in downtown Brewster as opposed to 5 miles outside of town, is more convenient.

"We used to be out in the country," says Elder. "Now we're right in the middle of this area in which people are living in very desperate circumstances. It feels like this was meant to be our home."

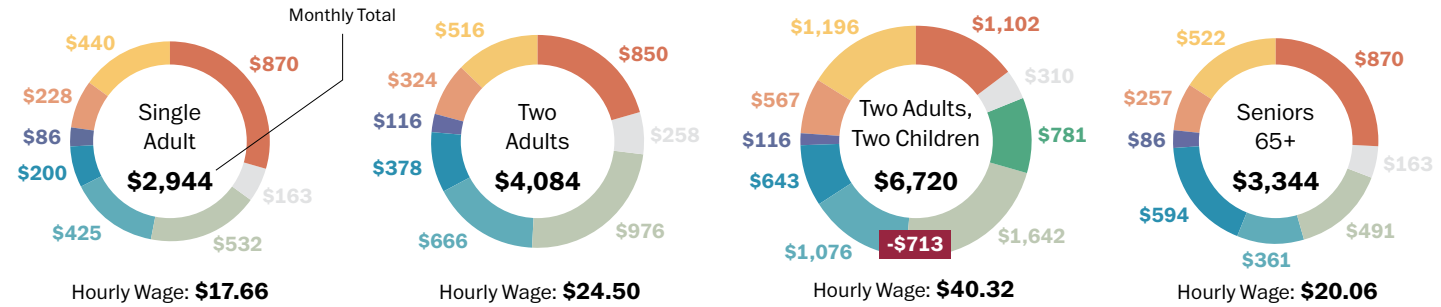
The change in fortunes couldn't have come at a better time.

In 2021 there was a sense of optimism among the many people working to address hunger locally. The pandemic was changing the way people thought about food insecurity, and governments were finally treating it like the public health emergency it always has been.

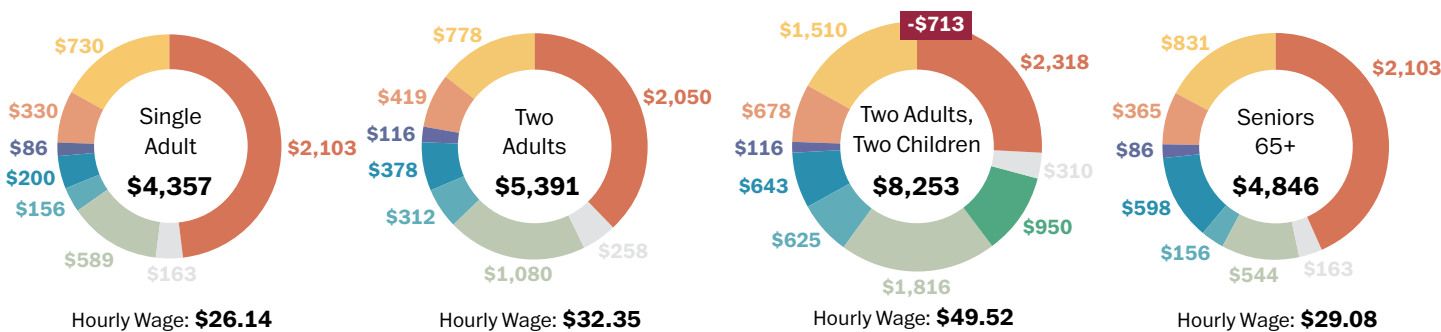
Means testing, the arduous process of

Itemized Survival Budget

Dutchess County



Putnam County



■ Housing - Rent / ■ Housing - Utilities / ■ Child Care / ■ Food / ■ Transportation
■ Health Care / ■ Technology / ■ Miscellaneous / ■ Tax Payments / ■ Child Tax Credits

The United Way's ALICE report estimates survival budgets, which it defines as the bare-minimum annual costs for housing, food, child care, health care and other expenses for a household depending on its composition.

	Single Adult	Two Adults	Two Adults, Two Children	Seniors 65+
Dutchess	\$35,328	\$49,008	\$80,640	\$40,128
Putnam	\$52,284	\$64,692	\$99,036	\$58,152
Orange	\$35,616	\$49,092	\$80,556	\$40,764
Rockland	\$52,848	\$64,356	\$97,524	\$58,248
Westchester	\$36,732	\$51,720	\$85,512	\$42,072
NY STATE	\$32,820	\$45,996	\$74,544	\$37,056

screening people before helping them in order to assess if they truly needed assistance, had temporarily fallen by the wayside, allowing nonprofits to help more people, and faster. The stigma around food insecurity was fading as more and more people who never thought they would need help found themselves jobless because of the pandemic. Government aid flowed freely: the American Rescue Plan Act, emergency rental assistance and an expanded federal child tax credit credited with lifting millions of children out of poverty.

"One could argue whether or not that's sustainable, propping up the populace with government stimulus, but you can't deny that it had an impact," said Tom Gabriel, president of the United Way of Westchester and Putnam. "People were finally getting ahead."

In 2022, governments decided that it was not sustainable. Congress did not renew the expanded child tax credit, pushing millions of children back into poverty and doubling the national childhood poverty rate overnight. Other pandemic protections expired: free school meals, extra benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (colloquially known as food stamps); and pauses on student loan and utility payments.

Some markers of economic health contin-

ued to improve: Unemployment was low, the stock market was up, wages were slowly increasing. Inflation was easing, especially compared to other countries around the world coming out of the pandemic. Economic pundits have scratched their heads over the past two years, wondering why Americans kept saying in poll after poll that the economy was bad when their numbers were telling them a different story.

Gabriel doesn't think the data itself was wrong. He just thinks the data that economists were touting weren't telling the whole story. Unemployment numbers don't track the underemployed, the underpaid or people who dropped out of the workforce during COVID to take care of family and haven't returned. He doesn't think we should be looking at the stock market, either. "There are so few people that actually have access to the stock market, that should never be a metric on how well the economy is doing," he said.

The data they should have been looking at, Gabriel said, was there all along.

ALICE still lives here

A few decades ago, the United Way of New Jersey created a statistic to measure people who don't turn up in poverty data:

ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). These are people who may earn above the poverty line, but below the basic cost of living in their respective counties. They are the working poor who make too much to qualify for government benefits but lack savings and are one unexpected emergency away from economic ruin. According to the United Way of Westchester and Putnam, they are growing in number.

"There's this huge gap between federal poverty levels and the reality of how much money people need to make to actually pay all their bills and still afford nutritious food," said Elder.

In both Philipstown and Beacon, 38 percent of households were under the ALICE threshold in 2022, according to the United Way's most recent report, which the nonprofit released last month. Across New York state, the numbers rose sharply from 2021 as pandemic aid was halted. A family of four in New York, with two working parents, lost \$15,000 in tax credits and stimulus payments between 2021 and 2022.

"Anytime I mention the ALICE data, people who are not in need are shocked," said Ruby Koch-Fienberg, the agriculture and food systems coordinator for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County. "But if you fall into the ALICE category, when you see the report, you're like, 'Yes, this is obvious.'"

Because of how long it takes to gather and calculate the data, it will take time to see how the numbers have changed since 2022 (the data can be fully explored at unitedforalice.org). But no one that I spoke to expects the more recent data to be any better.

That's clear even in the anecdotal evidence from people on the front lines of the food insecurity crisis. Elder said that the Putnam CAP soup kitchen was serving 70 meals at lunchtime last year; this year it's up to 130. Maria Helbock of the Philipstown Food Pantry noted a slight increase last weekend,

(Continued on Page 11)



The volunteers on hand on a recent day at Second Chance Foods



One of several walk-in coolers at the new Second Chance Foods space in downtown Brewster

Photos by B. Cronin

(Continued from Page 10)

which is typical as the holidays draw near. But despite Philipstown’s best efforts, the number of families showing up each week has stayed steady, even as the faces change. “It reflects the reality of what I’m hearing from all the direct emergency food providers,” said Koch-Fienberg. “It’s meaningful to have data that reflects that. But we can see that the need has been increasing since 2022.”

“If you used to spend \$100 on food, and now it’s \$130 but your wages haven’t gone up by \$30, then where is that money coming from?”

~ Tom Gabriel,
United Way of Westchester and Putnam

Jason Angell, a farmer and member of the Philipstown Town Board, said that the increase of more than 4 percent in Philipstown families who earn below the ALICE threshold is particularly dispiriting after all the work undertaken in the Highlands to address food insecurity. But he wasn’t necessarily surprised. He noted that the Town Board is looking into joining the state’s new Pro-Housing Communities program, which would make it eligible for certain grants if it can prove that it’s been permitting more housing. “At some point you’ve got to look at what’s driving people to have to live paycheck to paycheck,” he said. “If you care about food security, you’re starting to tie it to things like affordable housing.”

Personal care aides comprise the largest

category of workers in New York state by far, at 504,160. That’s more than twice the number of retail salespersons, the runner-up at 232,460. Wages for personal care aides have increased 21 percent since 2019, but not enough to keep up with inflation, which has risen at least 30 percent since then, according to Tom Gabriel from the United Way. As a result, 58 percent of personal care aides are living under the ALICE threshold. “If you used to spend \$100 on food, and now it’s \$130 but your wages haven’t gone up by \$30, then where is that money coming from?” he said. “That’s not a sustainable model for anyone, and that’s part of the reason why we have been clamoring about the fact that, no, the economy is not doing great.”

Stakes are higher

When the American Rescue Plan Act, enacted in 2021, directed over \$700,000 in funds to Philipstown, Angell hoped that much of that would be used to make long-term investments that would eliminate food insecurity locally. “In a town like Philipstown, with our resources, we should have a goal of zero percent food insecurity,” he said back in 2021. “That’s doable.” Then the wells at the Garrison Landing water district ran dry and the town found itself paying thousands of dollars a month to truck in water for its residents. A new well had to be drilled. The food crisis money instead became the water crisis money. It left only about \$15,000 for food insecurity, which went toward a study to accurately assess food insecurity locally. But the study proved worth the money. It led to the county collaborating with Koch-Fienberg and Cornell Cooperative Extension to figure out ways to get more nutritious food in the hands of those who need it, without red tape getting in the way.

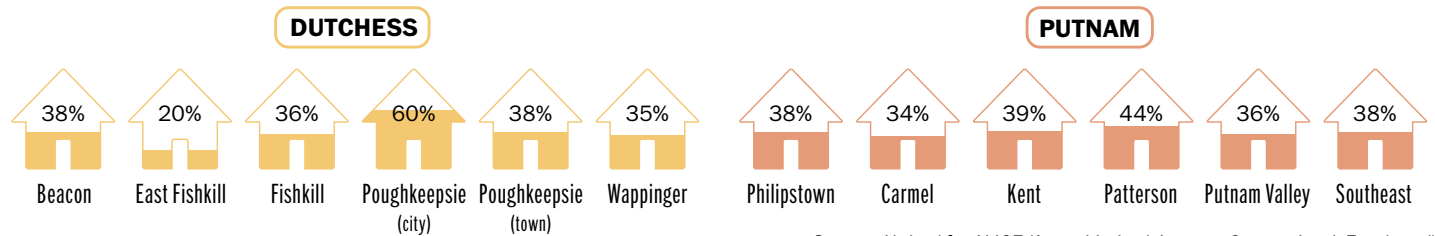


The Bountiful Meals community freezer at the Brewster Public Library

The results have been visible, and encouraging. Putnam’s new mobile food pantry makes several stops a week throughout the county to bring free, healthy food to those who need it, without paperwork or means testing. Davoren Farm collaborated with Philipstown to plant 10 tons of sweet potatoes on land owned by the town. In October, 120 volunteers harvested the potatoes, which were donated. Angell said that he’d like to see the success of the sweet potato project replicated next year in more places throughout the Highlands. The study also led to the Bountiful Meals initiative at Second Chance. Much like the tiny food pantries and community fridges that can be found throughout Beacon, the Bountiful Meals program relies on community freezers with clear glass doors. The freezers have been installed in public places throughout the county, such as senior

centers and libraries, and are stocked on a regular basis with frozen meals from Second Chance Foods. “We’re trying to put them in places where people are already going to access services,” said Koch-Fienberg. Second Chance Foods will receive funds in Putnam’s 2025 budget, the first time the county has allocated money in its spending plan to the organization. But in order to significantly reverse the increases in ALICE families and food insecurity, the federal government is going to have to get back in the game. Some of the programs started during the pandemic need continuous funding, said Koch-Fienberg. What worries many local nonprofits is that the opposite will happen. The incoming Trump administration has already hinted that, in order to offset the costs of extending tax cuts originally passed in 2017, it would look at cutting safety-net programs, including Medicaid and SNAP benefits. The prospect of introducing more stringent work requirements in order to receive benefits has also been floated. That’s before one even considers the threat of tariffs that could raise the costs of everyday goods and services by as much as 25 percent. Nonprofits would be left to pick up the increasing slack. But Gabriel said that nonprofit donations and donors have both been decreasing over the past few years. Organizations have also been affected by rising inflation. Gabriel said that 71 percent of nonprofits have seen an increase in the demand for their programs and services and 47 percent have also reported rising operating costs. “We know there’s going to be less funding available to nonprofit organizations to assist with food insecurity, and nonprofits have been doing more with less for a very long time,” he said. Gabriel hopes local and state governments will step up and help nonprofits, who know the crisis better than anyone, continue the work. Without more local help, the dam that groups like Second Chance and the United Way have been shoring up for so long could finally break. “There will be people on the street starving,” Gabriel warned. “That’s a fact. And they won’t have a place to go because nonprofits will not have the resources to provide for them.”

Percent of households earning above federal poverty levels but below the ALICE survival budgets for their counties:



Source: United for ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed)

Soulful Christmas

Natalie Forteza reprises holiday show

By Marc Ferris

Natalie Forteza has turned tragedy into triumph and it's all right there in her music and lyrics. Comparisons to the calm, laid-back grooves of Sade are inevitable — and welcome.

"It's the highest honor to have anyone say our names in the same breath," she says. "Sade is my ultimate inspiration and the reason I'm able to fully imagine and visualize exactly what I want for myself as an artist."

"My music has a vibe and I want people to walk away not describing it, but enjoying it."

~ Natalie Forteza

For the fourth year in a row, she will bring her *Christmas by Candlelight* show to the Chapel Restoration, at 7 p.m. on Dec. 7. The glow and the music will create a chill atmosphere as Forteza performs with her band: Pat Firth on piano, Anthony Candullo on bass and Erik Perez on drums.

Raised in Westchester County, Forteza

experienced one of many crushing blows when her stepfather died in the crash of Flight 587, which took off from JFK Airport on Nov. 12, 2001, two months after 9/11.

As with everyone, setbacks are inevitable, but there is little evidence of Forteza's darker past in her music or lyrics, which remain sunny and positive, the way she tries to live every day. During a recent show, held at the Howland Cultural Center, she called herself "a proudly obnoxious optimist."

At the Chapel Restoration, she will perform "What Christmas Should Always Be," which she wrote with Aamir Bermiss and Greg Seltzer. According to the lyrics, the season should feature the "presence of love, harmony and peace," and be a time when people "gather 'round enjoying each other's company / The open fire, our favorite carols / We sing while we wait for the holy midnight hour."

Her music exudes an easy-listening mood and groove, where solos are understated and no one is in a hurry. Even during mild funk interludes, notes linger and nothing comes unraveled. Slow-burn arrangements breathe as Forteza's upper-register falsetto seesaws from whispering to speaking to soaring, angular melodies.

Fond of sports and food analogies, Forteza calls her music a stew with distinctive ingredients beyond a base of Sade. There's also some Sting, smooth jazz,



Fishkill songwriter Natalie Forteza calls herself "a proudly obnoxious optimist." Photo provided

Brazilian jazz and Nat King Cole in there.

"I don't want to define myself because it can become a cliché, even though using these parallel names helps people identify the general genre," says Forteza, who lives in Fishkill. "My music has a vibe and I want people to walk away not describing it, but enjoying it and feeling good."

An untrained music lover who played violin as a child and sang with her high school chorus, she just wanted to learn some instruments and never aspired to be a songwriter. But for the last 15 years, she's worked with many musical collaborators around the area and is settling into a solid

situation with her current band.

Though the mellow Sade-like styling feels good now, Forteza's eclectic taste could push her in another direction one day. "Maybe I'll bust out and rearrange my vibe, who knows?" she says. "I love strings, classical guitar, thick bass and drums, house music and electronica, and it would be fun to come up with great riffs and different elements, like adding salt and fat to a recipe."

The Chapel Restoration is located at 45 Market St. in Cold Spring, next to the Metro-North station. Tickets are \$30 at chapelrestoration.org.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO A Historical Plaque Dedication



**November 30, 2024
12 noon
Philipstown Masonic Lodge
18 Secor Street
Nelsonville, NY**



Philipstown Lodge #236, is honoring Brother George Whipple for his dedication to preserving the Lodge's history and his contributions to the Putnam County community. In recognition, Brother Whipple has donated a commemorative plaque that highlights the Lodges' legacy from its founding in 1851.

The plaque, now displayed on the lawn of the Lodge building in Nelsonville, New York, serves as a tribute to the Lodge's long-standing role in Cold Spring and surrounding areas.


There will be a brief ceremony outside (weather permitting) and a short historical session in the Lodge room.

The public is invited to attend and be part of the tribute to Bro. George Whipple.

Handel's * **Messiah** * A Special Service

Woody Entrekin, Music Director
Highlands Choral Society, and the Highlands Chapel Orchestra
Soloists: J. Entrekin, J. Heckert, E. Cody-Kimmel, M. McKee, H. Mentzer

DECEMBER 15TH 11:00AM
HIGHLANDS CHAPEL 216 MAIN STREET, COLD SPRING

Celebrate the Season  Highlands Choral Society

The Calendar



Curtis Raye and his FOIA troupe will be at the Howland in Beacon.

Photo provided

Banjos and Public Documents

Comedy, music show celebrates FOIA requests

By Marc Ferris

Curtis Raye first called his live show *FOIA Love*, after the similar-sounding name of the Yardbirds hit from 1965. But the play on “For Your Love” and reference to the federal Freedom of Information Act never clicked.

Now, he bills the show as *A Night of Comedy & Bluegrass About Strange Public Documents*. As one summary states: “If you enjoy history, journalism, libraries, banjos, archives or humor discovered in unusual places, then this is the show for you.”

Sounds like the sequel to Nerd Night, which packed the Howland Cultural Center earlier this month. Raye attended, coming up from New Jersey.

He’ll return at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday (Dec. 5) — with ace musicians from Asheville, North Carolina, and Nashville, Tennessee, in tow — to perform his own geek-inspired concept, which pairs a bluegrass soundtrack with six vignettes that lampoon human nature through the lens of government documents.

“Public records are the original reality TV, which people find amusing for the raw, unfiltered emotion and sincerity, the basis for comedy,” Raye says.

One segment centers on longtime FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, who took office in 1924. For some reason, Americans from all over the country wrote directly to Hoover to inquire whether notorious outlaw Jesse James didn’t actually die in 1882.

Rather than ignore them, Hoover responded to each letter individually, Raye says. In the bit, the cast reads a few short letters out loud, revealing Hoover’s growing agitation toward the senders. “Then the band plays a song, either ‘Jesse James’ or ‘Oh Hang Me,’ which is about being in prison,” he says.

Raye also pairs “White House Blues,” a tune that mentions Teddy Roosevelt but really covers the 1901 assassination of President William McKinley with a bit about Franklin Roosevelt.

Hoover’s letters are the kinds of documents

he discovered several years ago after filing FOIA requests for a client. Digging through them, he’d come across something strange every thousand documents or so, which made it “electrifying and worth it,” Raye says.

This turned into a hobby, and now he consults records online, finding gems in old wills, FBI profiles and Federal Aviation Administration complaints. A pilot once flew low over his heavily populated neighborhood in Baltimore, rattling the windows to let his wife know he’d be home soon, “so he was behaving in a sweet, although antisocial, way,” he says.

Raye tried standup but pivoted. “A comedian will say, ‘I went on a date and it didn’t go well,’ and then make jokes about it. I’m not good at that type of comedy, but I am good at finding FTC [Federal Trade Commission] complaints about eHarmony and Match.com dates that went south. It’s still about love, but I have a different way of getting there.”

Raye plays bluegrass banjo, but hands off music duties to a rotating band of ace players. When it comes to the genre, Raye says he “can’t write a lost-love song that drags your soul along the ground,” but I can look up complaints about dating services “that can make me feel the same way.”

He also noted that the Howland Cultural Center’s intimate room “brings bluegrass up close.” In a small venue like the Howland, he says, “it’s electric to see how fast the fingers are moving,” compared to a noisy bar or large arena.

And Raye wears the nerd badge with pride. “Many bluegrass songs are about three things: affection for criminals, blaming someone else for their problems and trains,” he says.

“Most public records are similar — FBI files on criminals, complaints that blame others about, say, seeing Janet Jackson’s breast at the Super Bowl, and infrastructure boondoggles; that’s the connection.”

The Howland Cultural Center is located at 477 Main St. in Beacon. Tickets are \$20 in advance at bit.ly/foialove_hcc or \$25 at the door.



Tony DePaolo at his home in Beacon

Photo by M. Ferris

Musical Career Reaches New Heights

Beacon guitarist has gig at Empire State Building

By Marc Ferris

Four years ago, Tony DePaolo’s musical career reached new heights: an employee impressed by his guitar playing on a glass-enclosed party boat off lower Manhattan recommended him for a regular weekend gig on the 86th-floor observatory of the Empire State Building.

From the time he graduated from Beacon High School a year early, DePaolo has made a living playing music. “I spent what would have been my senior year learning the ropes of how to craft a career,” he says. “The worst thing I could do is say ‘No’ to a gig; I always say ‘Yes’ and figure out how to get it done.”

He’ll take a typical \$100-per-musician bar gig, but by working his connections and staying true to the tunes, he also has opened for six-string idols Larry Carlton, Steve Morse and Stanley Jordan. A jazz fusion fan, he debuted for Spyro Gyra, one of the genre’s biggest bands.

DePaolo lives in the Beacon house where he grew up, across the street from his elementary and middle school, St. John’s, where the nuns nourished his musical talent from a young age.

“I give them credit for instilling that discipline,” he says. “My father played piano and for him, music had to be done right. I had to read music and practice, and it all paid off.”

He started on the keys, but like many impressionable young people at the time, he watched The Beatles on *The Ed Sullivan Show* in 1964 and begged his parents for a guitar.

In 1999, his wedding combo got a boost after appearing in two episodes of the first season of *The Sopra-*

nos. “Every couple in New Jersey wanted us,” he recalls. He also appears in the Chaz Palminteri film *Once More with Feeling*.

Although DePaolo shares a birthday with guitar pioneer Django Reinhardt, who died in 1953, he’s versatile and fronts a Jimi Hendrix cover band, Electric Gypsies. His signature style is arranging lush jazz versions of popular songs from the Great American Songbook to today’s Top 40.

One thing he never got into was digital production. “You have to get everyone in the room together and record live — like they did at [classic jazz label] Blue Note Records,” he says. “No one wore headphones. If they didn’t get the take, they had to play it again.”

In 2014, he released an album of covers and three originals. He and videographer Jon Slackman made a short with drone shots of Fishkill Creek.

Over the years, DePaolo played a dizzying number of recording sessions. One recent project is backing Woodstock-based singer Lindsey Webster, who topped the Billboard Contemporary Jazz chart with the singles “Fool Me Once” and “Where Do You Want to Go?” — a rarity for vocalists in that category.

Staring out the window toward his old schoolyard, DePaolo recalls seeing photos of his young self as a prodigy in the *Beacon Free Press* and the now-defunct *Beacon Evening News*, along with the days when the city’s music scene continued into the wee hours.

“I was playing out four to six nights a week — there were 20 places from the river to the mountain,” he says. “Now, I come home after the Empire State Building around midnight, and there’s nowhere to go for music.”

DePaolo will perform at the Silk Factory in Newburgh from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec 7.



[WEEK AHEAD]

TREE LIGHTINGS

SAT 30
BEACON
3 p.m. Memorial Park
Robert Cahill Drive
Have hot chocolate and treats and take home an ornament kit while enjoying live music and dance performances. The tree will be lit at 4:30 p.m. when Santa arrives.

SUN 1
NELSONVILLE
4:30 p.m. Village Green
nelsonvilleny.gov
Join neighbors across from Village Hall for carols, hot cocoa and cookies.

THURS 5
GARRISON
5:30 p.m. Winter Hill
20 Nazareth Way | hhl.org
This family celebration will include music, hot drinks and the lighting of the 80-foot tree. Register online.

SUN 8
COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Bandstand
coldspringnychamber.com/aglow
The Girl Scouts will lead caroling before Santa arrives on a fire truck.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

SAT 30
Everything You Need to Know About Christmas Trees
BEACON
11 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Members of the Beacon Tree Committee will discuss how to select, care for and dispose of fir trees.

FRI 6
Cold Spring Aglow
COLD SPRING
4 – 8 p.m. Main Street
coldspringnychamber.com
Stroll sidewalks lit by luminaria and visit merchants staying open late and offering events or sales. There will be live music, too. Also SAT 7, SUN 8.

SHOP LOCAL

SAT 7
Holiday Cookie Swap
COLD SPRING
1 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Bring two dozen homemade cookies and copies of the recipe to share.

SAT 7
Holiday Party
GARRISON
5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Become a supporter at the annual Friends of the Library party.

SAT 7
Holiday Wreath Making
GARRISON
5:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org
The Parcel Flower Co. will guide participants in making holiday decor with locally sourced, foraged materials. Cost includes materials for an 18-inch wreath and refreshments. *Cost: \$80*

SUN 8
Holiday Tours
BEACON
Noon. Mount Gulian
145 Sterling St. | mountgulian.org
The historic home will have decorative Victorian styles in each room. Tours also take place at 1 and 2 p.m. Weekends through Dec. 21. *Cost: \$12 (\$10 seniors, \$8 ages 6 to 18, free ages 6 and younger)*

GIFT FAIRS

SAT 30
Gift Show and Sale
BEACON
1 – 3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org
Find handmade goods from 25 Hudson Valley artisans. Also SUN 1, FRI 6, SAT 7, SUN 8 and weekends through Dec. 21.

FRI 6
Holiday Pottery Show & Sale
GARRISON
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org
Browse works by artisans at the annual sale. Through Dec. 15.



SAT 7
Christmas Fair
BEACON
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. St. Joachim's
51 Leonard St. | stjochim-stjohn.org
Check out our new Christmas items, treats, jewelry and raffles. Breakfast and lunch will be available.

SAT 7
Winter Craft Fair
POUGHKEEPSIE
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. MJN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org
Find local and regional handmade crafts by artisans. *Free*

KIDS & FAMILY

WED 4
Pipe Cleaner Snowflakes
GARRISON
3:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Children ages 5 and older are invited to create their own. Registration requested.

WED 4
Sesame Street Live
POUGHKEEPSIE
6 p.m. MJN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org
Children can sing, dance and play with their favorite characters. *Cost: \$41 to \$73*

SAT 7
Family Bingo
BEACON
11 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Children ages 4 to 12 and their

caregivers are welcome. Registration requested.

SAT 7
Learn Dog Language
COLD SPRING
11 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Children can interpret the signs that dogs use to communicate.

SAT 7
Bear in a Bow Tie
GARRISON
3:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Barry Waldo will read from the latest book in his series, followed by crafts. Registration requested.

SUN 8
Nutcracker, Short and Sweet
PEEKSKILL
1 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
This sensory-friendly performance will have more lighting and lower sound levels. Attendees may talk and move during the show. A standard performance will follow at 5 p.m. *Cost: \$25*

SUN 8
The Nutcracker
BEACON
5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org
This Classics for Kids performance will include a narrator and a piano duo. *Cost: \$15 (children free)*

FLOWERS PLANTS GIFTS

3052 Route 9 Cold Spring, NY

WREATH WORKSHOPS DEC 5 DEC 6 DEC 14

DEC 7 OUTDOOR HOLIDAY MARKET

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY DEC 14

THE PARCEL

Joseph's Fine Jewelry

BUYING GOLD | Highest price for Gold, Diamonds, Silver, Coins, etc. We buy to resell, not to scrap. We specialize in estate jewelry.

171 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516

By appointment only.

STORE 845-265-2323

CELL 914-213-8749

DIRTY BACCHUS

Natural Wine
Mead | Cider | Sake

dirtybacchus.com

(845) 440-6866

380 Main Street
Beacon, NY 12508

@dirtybacchus

MP

Art
Jewelry
Objects

520 Main St.
Beacon, NY

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 30
Marry, F, Kill
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
Luann De Lesseps, known as “The Countess” on *The Real Housewives of New York City*, will sing, dance and entertain her fans in this cabaret show. *Cost: \$56 to \$159*

FRI 6
Holiday Ha
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Move | 34 Chestnut St.
dub.sh/holiday-has-2024
Susanna Spies will host this comedy show with Amy Foster, Pete Smith, Gina Ginsberg, Alex Kollar and Patrick Keane to benefit the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub. *Cost: \$35*

FRI 6
Macbeth
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Haldane Auditorium
15 Craigsides Drive | haldaneschool.org
Haldane Drama will present Shakespeare’s tragedy about a Scottish general given a prophecy that he will become king. Also SAT 7. See Page 21. *Cost: \$12 (\$5 students, seniors)*

SHOP LOCAL

West Point Holiday Show, Dec. 7

FRI 6
A Christmas Carol
PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
Storyteller Jonathan Kruk will play all the roles as he narrates this classic holiday tale. *Cost: \$25 (students free)*

FRI 6
Readers Theatre Mini-Festival
WAPPINGERS FALLS
8 p.m. County Players Theater
2681 W. Main St. | countypayers.org
The CP2 festival features dramatic readings of *Babel* and *Marjorie Prime*. Also SAT 7, SUN 8. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 for both)*

SAT 7
The Nutcracker
POUGHKEEPSIE
7 p.m. MJN Center | 14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org
Queen City Dance will stage this family-friendly performance. Also SUN 8. *Cost: \$30*

MUSIC

SAT 30
Westchester Jazz Alliance Quartet
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org
Charley Krachy (sax), Dave Frank (piano), Fr. Stan Fortuna (bass) and T-kash Inuoe (drums) will perform. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 30
The Weeklings
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The band plays the hits of the Beatles and other ‘60s bands. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

SUN 1
Audrey Wright
BEACON
5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org
The New York Philharmonic violinist will perform *Luminous Being*, a solo show of classics from the 12th to 20th centuries with light art that responds to sound. *Cost: Pay what you wish*

(Continued on Page 16)

Kringle's Christmas House

Bringing you the finest in Europe heirloom ornaments

134 Main St Beacon
765-0444

Hudson Beach Glass

Fine art gallery located on second floor

SHOP LOCAL

162 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508 845-440-0068
www.hudsonbeachglass.com

SHOP LOCAL

nuts for you!

understoryMARKET

REFILLS & GOODS for BODY, HOME, KITCHEN & TRAIL

Your Neighborhood Low-Waste Market

44 MAIN ST COLD SPRING NY 10516
www.understorymarket.com

It smells so good in here!

Refillables

PANTRY

grains, legumes,
nuts, flour, pasta...

CLEANING

home, laundry,
kitchen, bath...

BODY

soap, shampoo,
lotion, conditioner...

[WEEK AHEAD]

(Continued from Page 15)

SUN 1

Music Cottage Showcase

BEACON

5:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Students from the Brewster school will perform a holiday concert. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

THURS 5

A Wynotte Sisters Christmas

BEACON

7 p.m. Southern Dutchess Country Club
1209 North Ave. | wynottesisters.com

Sara Milonovich, Daria Grace and Vibeke Saugestad will perform originals and covers with guests The Lousin' Brothers. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

THURS 5

Comedy & Bluegrass About Strange Public Records

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org

FOIA Love's show includes jokes and songs inspired by Freedom of Information Act requests. See Page 13. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

FRI 6

Lotus

BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The tribute band plays the music of Santana. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

FRI 6

The Irish Tenors

PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

Anthony Kearns, Ronan Tynan and Declan Kelly will sing traditional Irish music, with a holiday twist. *Cost: \$70 to \$88*

SAT 7

Holiday Show

WEST POINT

2 p.m. Ike Hall Theatre
655 Pitcher Road | westpointband.com

The West Point Band's program will include holiday favorites. Also SUN 8. *Free*

SAT 7

Holiday Concert

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | musicatstmarys.com

Taghkanic Chorale's program will include works by Vivaldi, Bach, Purcell and Buxtehude. Also SUN 8. *Cost: \$25 (\$22 seniors, \$12 students, ages 12 and younger free)*

SAT 7

Ultra Klash / Electronic Music Expo

BEACON

7 p.m. The Yard | theyardbeacon.com

Two bands and DJs will play sets in this multisensory experience. Costumes encouraged. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 7

Christmas by Candlelight

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org

Natalie Forteza and her band will perform a holiday set. See Page 12. *Cost: \$30*

SAT 7

Mighty Girl & The Judith Tulloch Band

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org

The bands will provide a musical holiday extravaganza. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*


SAT 7

Sloan Wainwright

BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

For her 25th annual holiday show, the singer and songwriter will be joined by the Sloan Flakes, Peter Linz and her granddaughters. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*



Sloan Wainwright, Dec. 7

CIVIC

MON 2

City Council

BEACON

7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

TUES 3

School Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Middle School Library
15 Craigside Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org

TUES 3

Putnam Legislature

CARMEL

7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800
putnamcountyny.com

WED 4

Village Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

THURS 5

Budget Hearing

POUGHKEEPSIE

6:30 p.m. Legislative Chambers
22 Market St. | 845-486-2100
dutchessny.gov

Residents can ask questions and share feedback on the Dutchess Legislature's proposed 2025 budget.

THURS 5

Town Board

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

Edited by Pamela Doan
(calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

For a full listing of events, see
highlandscurrent.org/calendar.



The Gift Hut

Unique Gifts, Toys, Puzzles
for the Whole Family



Shop in store or online at www.gifthut.com
86 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516

Instagram [the_gift_hut](https://www.instagram.com/the_gift_hut)
Facebook [@thegifthutny](https://www.facebook.com/thegifthutny)



FRED ASTAIRE

FRANCHISED DANCE STUDIOS

Give the Gift of
DANCE

Two private lessons for \$99.

Fred Astaire Cold Spring
3182 Route 9 Cold Spring, NY 10516
(845) 424-6353 | www.fredastaire.com/cold-spring



FRANCISCAN FRIARS
of the
ATONEMENT™

Plan Your Visit to Graymoor this Advent Season

Events & Opportunities Await on The Holy Mountain

Advent Mass and Sorelle Molinelli's Sing Advent Christmas Concert

December 1
11:00am Mass
12:30pm Concert



Manuela Molinelli and
Regina Molinelli

Annual Christmas Craft Fair

December 1
9:00am-5:00pm



Christmas Wreaths and Plants

December 7-8
December 14-15
9:30am-1:00pm



Christmas Creche: Scenes from Around the World

Display will be available
December 1-January 8



Graymoor Book + Gift Center

Wednesday-Saturday Hours:
9:00am-5:00pm
Sunday Hours: 9:00am-3:00pm
845-424-2100



Spirit of Christmas on the Holy Mountain

Presented by
Kacey Morabito-Grean

December 14
10:00am-2:00pm



We're located in Garrison, NY (40 Franciscan Way)
Please visit our website for details on each upcoming event.

communications@atonementfriars.org atonementfriars.org AtonementFriars

The Highlands in Black and White

A couple's view of Cold Spring and beyond
By Michael Turton

When Will and Alissa Malnati moved to Philipstown in 2021, they immediately fell in love with the Highlands. As they explored, they took hundreds of photos on their iPhones, shooting whatever caught their eye, from landscapes and architecture to people and road signs.

They recently returned to Brooklyn but left what Alissa describes as “a parting gift” for locals: a coffee-table book with more than 50 of their favorite images.

In *Cold Spring, NY*, the couple captures quintessential images of the village, as well as scenes from West Point, Bannerman Island and Breakneck Ridge, Boscobel, Vera’s Marketplace on Route 9 and Fishkill Farms.

Some of the photos, by design, require a second look. In one, the contents of an upended garbage can lie on the snow-covered ground. “If you look closely, you see massive bear prints,” Will explains. He says

they photographed the bear but preferred the subtlety of showing only the paw prints.

Other shots are playful, such as the turtle crossing sign on Fishkill Road and the intersection of East Mountain Road North and East Mountain Road South.

“We toggled between color and black and white,” Will says. “But we felt we captured beauty in a textured and interesting way, looking differently at things that often have bright colors.” Alissa says black and white “made sense for Cold Spring because it’s timeless.”

Both have favorite images. Will points to the shot of Bannerman Island, taken at close range as they approached by boat. “It’s a place a lot of people only see from a distance; being that close is so dramatic,” he says.

Alissa often changes her mind about favorites but highlighted one of the reservoir on East Mountain Road South. “It’s like an optical illusion,” she says, because the woods and sky reflect on the water’s surface. “Just for fun, we toyed with the idea of flipping the photo to see if anyone



Will and Alissa Malnati

Photo provided

would notice.”

While they had a shot list, many of the photos were taken on the spur of the moment as the couple explored backroads, mountaintops and farms. However, one photo was about being in the right place at the right time. At West Point, they came across two cadets in dress uniform, standing on a stone wall, with the river, the Highlands and a dramatic sky as the backdrop.

One of the cadets threw his cap, and Will snapped it in midair.

“They weren’t doing it for us, but I’m quick on the trigger,” he says. “It’s just a beautiful shot.”

Cold Spring, NY is \$38 at the General Store in Cold Spring, Dia Beacon, Fishkill Farms in Hopewell Junction and on Amazon.



Hello everyone, my name is **Jordan Pambi**. I am a third-year/junior at Bard College. I am majoring in studio arts with a planned minor in French. I have been creating art since I was young. With the works that you see: *La Maitresse*, *The College of Cardinals*, and *Self-Portrait*, they are all inspired by black representation and the Renaissance. I enjoy making art that places black individuals in spaces where they are not seen in powerful positions and are placed to be categorized into more servile roles. With the Renaissance and all of its rich imagery, I view it as the perfect landscape for me to place black individuals in an uncommon light.

If you would like to follow my artistic journey as it is now beginning, you can find me on Instagram **@jordanpdoesart**.



OPEN WEEKDAYS TIL 7
PLENTY OF WEEKDAY PARKING

stanza

NEW BOOKS
FOR ALL AGES

all genres, fiction, non-fiction,
children's books

508 main beacon
stanzabooks.com
845-674-4707

sun-thurs: 10-7
fri-sat: 10-8

SAM ANDERSON, ESSAYIST
Staff Writer, NY Times Magazine
Host, "Animal," NY Times podcast
Author, "Boom Town"
Beaconite

U
R
what
U
write

Sam Anderson may have traveled deep inside the jungle of the Yucatán to a bat-infested Mayan temple for an episode of his podcast, "Animal," but the real story comes from within.

Sam describes his writing like this, "I'm coming from the personal essay. You're using yourself to illuminate this other thing, and using the other thing to illuminate yourself. You're kind of bouncing them off each other."

So here he is in the jungle, in the dark, trying not to scream. Bats are flitting above him, around him, and potentially on him when the story makes a sudden swoop and becomes all about his socks. The socks were his late father's. They spark a memory of being 5 years old in a cave when a bat flew near his face. He wasn't afraid because his dad was right there. In a fuzzy footwear way, it's almost as if his dad is comforting him still. In another episode, Sam travels to Iceland to rescue baby puffins who leave the nest and fail to properly launch. Coincidentally, his daughter, Greta, is leaving the nest for college. This makes him weep at the sight of her favorite apple sauce on the shelf at Key Food.

It's almost shocking how willing Sam is to tell us about his inner life. "I've always had deep feelings," he says. "I leaned into it." These feelings apply to a surprising range of topics including Rick Steves, who encouraged millions of Americans to take a life-changing trip abroad. One of those millions... ..was Sam Anderson.

It was eye-opening.

That's when he first stood in awe in front of Michelangelo's statue of "David." Decades later it, too, became the subject of an essay with a personal connection. Turns out the masterpiece suffers from perilously weak ankles. Sam, too.

Then there's his deep and hilarious feelings about basketball star James Harden's beard. Its bounty merited several pages in his 2018 book, *Boom Town*. "I have a gut feeling when I know a story is for me, and I can't fake it. Certain themes resonate. The White Sox losing [121 games]? I was like, Oh, yes!"

When his dad was sick, Sam was thinking about things coming to an end. He traveled to Kenya to profile the last two Northern White Rhinos—both girls, sadly for the species. "I spent two weeks with them in the field, writing about the most mundane things: the sound of them chewing grass, their nap routine. And then there's this giant fart that goes on and on."

Once again, a story from... within.

Bats are flying around like nightmare confetti.

Their lips press together in a long flat line, giving them a constant expression of slightly comic seriousness, like the classic emoji:



Over the course of the 2024 season, the White Sox have explored the full spectrum of losing the way a great actor uses every corner of the stage...


A slow-motion testosterone explosion...

I was wearing my dad's socks that I inherited when he died.

We all go sprinting toward this teeny, panicking blob of feathers.

My inner troll worshiped not the David but the cracks in David's ankles. They were, as a fatal flaw, so deliciously humiliating...

...[Rick Steves] wants you to stand and make little moaning sounds on a cobblestone street the first time you taste authentic Italian gelato...



OUR REGION IS IN A DROUGHT.

EVERY DROP COUNTS!

We need you to conserve water immediately.

VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING STAGE 2 WATER EMERGENCY EFFECTIVE 11.6.2024

Due to extended drought conditions and high temperatures, the Village's overall water reserves have dropped below 60%. Per Village Code Chapter 130, additional restrictions are in place and will remain in force until rescinded by the Village Board. It is very important to conserve water in any way possible. If our reserves drop below 45%, we will have to purchase raw water from the Catskill Aqueduct—a cost that could reach nearly \$1,000 a day.

Please fix leaks and abstain from watering lawns and outdoor plantings, washing vehicles, filling water features such as pools or decorative ponds and fountains. Drinking water should be served only on request. Here are more tips for how you can save water every day:

BATHROOM

- Take shorter showers and save 5-7 gallons a minute
- Fill the tub halfway and save 10-15 gallons
- Don't run the water while shaving, washing your hands, or brushing your teeth — faucets use 2-3 gallons a minute
- Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket, and don't flush it unnecessarily
- Install water-saving toilets, shower heads and faucet aerators

KITCHEN & LAUNDRY

- Run the dishwasher and washing machine only when full; save even more by using the short cycle
- Install faucet aerators
- Don't let the water run while washing dishes; kitchen faucets use 2 to 3 gallons a minute
- Filling a basin only takes 10 gallons to wash and rinse
- Don't run water to make it cold; keep chilled in the refrigerator, ready to drink

PUBLIC NOTICE

Due to extended drought conditions and the resulting need to draw upon the Village's reserve water supply, the Mayor and the Village Board of Water Commissioners (the Village Board of Trustees) hereby proclaims, Under Village Code Chapter 130, Sections 19-25, a STAGE 2 WATER EMERGENCY. Stage 2 is initiated when the Village's overall water reserves have dropped below 60%.

Guidance for water usage is provided below. This Proclamation shall be in effect until rescinded by the Village Board of Water Commissioners.

(1) All Village water system users are required to:

- identify and stop all leaks
- cease washing vehicles, building exteriors or outside areas
- refrain from watering lawns, ornamental shrubs, plants, trees or gardens at all times
- irrigate vegetables or fruits for human consumption from hand-held containers only
- refrain from filling and/or maintaining levels swimming pools, hot tubs and similar recreational pools

(2) Bars, Bed & Breakfasts, Coffee Shops, Hotels, and Restaurants, including those with in Hotels & Bed & Breakfasts, shall only provide drinking water upon request.

(3) Hotels, Bed & Breakfasts, and Short Term Rentals shall wash linens during guest's stays only upon request.

§130-23. Failure of compliance.
A person failing to comply with the provisions of this Article shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a violation.

§130-24. Enforcement of Water Emergency Provisions.
The Water Superintendent, the Code Enforcement Officer, and the Cold Spring Police Department will enforce this order.

NOTICE

Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will NOT meet in the month of December. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 6th, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

NOTICE

Philipstown Conservation Board

The Philipstown Conservation Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, December 10th, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Conservation Board December 2024.

NOTICE

Historical Plaque Ceremony

Philipstown Lodge No. 236, Free and Accepted Masons, is honoring Brother George Whipple for his dedication to preserving the Lodge's history and his contributions to the Putnam County community through the Whipple Foundation. In recognition, Brother Whipple has donated a commemorative plaque that highlights the Lodge's legacy from its founding in 1851.

The plaque, now displayed on the lawn at the Lodge in Nelsonville, New York, serves as a tribute to the Lodge's long-standing role in Cold Spring and surrounding areas. "Brother Whipple's passion for preserving our history has been inspiring," said Manuel Juarez, Worshipful Master for the 2024-2025 Masonic year.

The plaque will be dedicated in a ceremony on **NOVEMBER 30, 2024, at 12:00PM**. Lodge members, community members and invited guests will gather to celebrate Brother Whipple's contribution. The PUBLIC is welcome to attend.

NOTICE

Historic District Review Board

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Historic District Review Board for the Village of Cold Spring will conduct a public hearing on **Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to consider the application by **Our Lady of Loretto Church, 24 Fair Street Cold Spring, New York 10516** to replace existing slate roof with an asphalt roof as well as exterior changes such as chimney rebuilding and gutter replacement, etc.

The subject property is **24 Fair Street, Cold Spring, New York, 10516**, designated as Tax Map Section 48.8-2-5. The property is located within the ERC Zoning District as well as the National Historic District.

Hard copies of the application materials are available for review in Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516, by appointment only. Please call the Village Clerk at 845-265-3611 to make an appointment.

Application materials are also available to view on the Village website: <https://www.coldspringny.gov/historic-district-review-board/pages/current-applications>

Written comment on the application can be mailed or hand-delivered to Village Hall, or emailed to the Village Clerk, vcsclerk@coldspringny.gov. Written comment must be received by **Monday December 2, 2024** to be included in the public record.

The public is welcome to join the hearing via videoconference:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85246257150?pwd=SHlaMm5rbTRVaVpVS0F1UzlGeFhwZz09>

Join by phone: **+1 646-876-9923**

Meeting ID: **852 4625 7150**

Passcode: **005635**

BY ORDER OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT REVIEW BOARD ALBERT ZGOLINSKI, CHAIR

Macbeth's Timeless Message

Haldane actors see modern themes in classic tragedy

By Marc Ferris

A 400-year-old play that is one of Shakespeare's most famous works still conveys meaning to Haldane High School drama students.

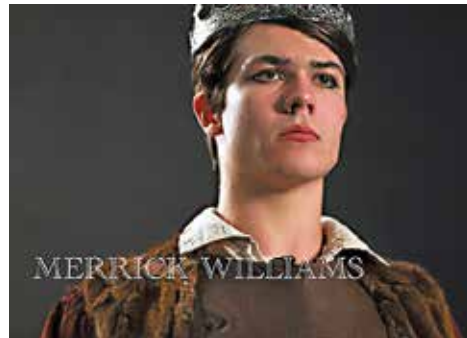
Sophomore English classes include a unit on *Macbeth*, so the rise and fall of the lead character and his lady is familiar to the actors and crew, who will stage a production on Dec. 6 and 7.

For Martha Mechalakos, Haldane's theater director, the selection checked a lot of boxes: it's canonical, students like it, the cast is doable for the small school and there is striking relevance to today. "It examines the idea of political corruption and how easily one can be manipulated and led astray by envy, guilt, greed and paranoia that brings destruction and downfall," she said.

The leads are double-cast. At a recent rehearsal, Merrick Williams and Helen Hutchison, who will perform on Dec. 7, watched their counterparts, Lucius Bell and Sophie Koch, work the stage.

Bell, who will play Macbeth to Koch's Lady Macbeth on Dec. 6, huddled with Williams during lulls to study their dog-eared copies of the script and exchange tips, like two athletes going over the playbook. Hutchison enjoys Lady Macbeth's line dissing her husband for agonizing over whether to stop the violence or continue vanquishing enemies.

"She compares him to 'the cat in the adage,' meaning a proverb where the feline wants the fish but is afraid to get its paws wet," Hutchison says. "I connect with her because she's a powerful woman — with some issues. It's such a fun role and there aren't that many strong female characters in Shakespeare."



Lucius Bell, Helen Hutchison, Merrick Williams and Sophie Koch

Hutchison also digs the phrase "from his mother's womb untimely ripped," referring to antagonist Macduff being born by C-section, a quirk in the rules that allows him to slay Macbeth and become king.

During the rehearsal, Bell delivered lines with various accents and exuberant intensity. Koch took a more refined, understated approach and Gemma Sabin delivered comedy gold as the Porter of hell.

For 3 ½ hours, the tech crew paid careful attention and took notes as adult volunteer/advisor Damian McDonald rode a lift 30 feet up to the ceiling and tinkered with the lights. "We don't have a catwalk," he said, adjusting color calibrations with his phone. "That's one drawback of having a stage in the gym."

The proceedings took place under the keen eye of Mechalakos, known by students as Ms. Mek, who doled out stage directions: "Make it more sinister, it's a little light. I need more menace." During the banquet scene, she said: "Keep separation, you got jumbled up there. Try not to be so fidgety."

For Williams, the play is not "some crazy



Photos provided

story that could only happen to Macbeth." Everyone is susceptible to "vaulting ambition," he says, adding that the play has staying power because its message about greed and power and how that can lead to insanity reflects things that are "still going on."

Williams marvels at Shakespeare's oblique but "masterful" language and how it succinctly captures ideas. One line that rings true for him is: "I am in blood / stepped in so far that I should wade no more, / Returning were as tedious as go o'er and continue the mayhem."

The line can apply to "lying nowadays, and how everyone does it, but if you find yourself in a river of blood, the lies will come crashing down," he says. "He [Macbeth] stands at the abyss, and it all leads to going mad and killing people — like absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Haldane is located at 15 Craigside Drive in Cold Spring. Tickets are \$12 (\$5 for students and seniors) at dub.sh/haldane-macbeth or the door. Each performance begins at 7 p.m.

Current Classifieds

SERVICES

HEALING BODYWORK — Featured in NY Magazine as "one of the 15 best massage therapists offering CranialSacral Therapy," with a specialty in SomatoEmotional Release. In addition, I offer Swedish massage incorporating CranialSacral Therapy. Trained in Medical Massage, Process Acupuncture, Meditation and Foot Reflexology with over 30 years' experience. Garrison and Ossining locations. House calls available. Call 914-519-8138 or visit Joymatalon.com.

SAXOPHONE LESSONS — Beginners and intermediates welcome. Lessons in Garrison and/or Jefferson Valley Mall. Email jazzdude60@gmail.com.

BECOME AN AUTHOR — We want to read your book! Dorrance Publishing has been trusted by authors since 1920. Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive services: consultation, production, promotion and distribution. Call 1-855-879-7230 for your free author's guide or visit dorranceinfo.com/highlands.

GUTTER CLEANING — Eliminate gutter cleaning forever with LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a free LeafFilter estimate today! 20% off entire purchase, plus 10% senior & military discounts. Call 1-833-961-2753.

FOR RENT

COLD SPRING — Looking for a turn-key place to stay in the Hudson Valley? We offer furnished rentals in the heart of Cold Spring village. 2- and 3-bedroom units; WD/AC/DW; 4-minute walk to train; off-street parking available; 1 month security deposit; discounted utilities; no smoking. Call/text Jim at 917-348-3300.

TAG SALE? Car for sale? Space for rent? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$9.95. See highlandscurrent.org/classifieds.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Mr. Cheapee INC.
GOT RUBBISH?
10-30 YARD DUMPSTER RENTAL
RUBBISH REMOVAL SERVICES
DEMOLITION SERVICES
37A Albany Post Rd. Ossining, NY 10562
MrCheapeeInc@aol.com
914-737-0823
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1994
www.MrCheapeeInc.com

DR. K
IMPORTED CAR SERVICE & REPAIR
15 TIORONDA AVE.
BEACON, NY 12508
Phone/ 845.838.0717
Fax/ 845.440.7541
DrKImportedCar.com E-Mail/ drkimportedcarservice@gmail.com

Lynne Ward, LCSW
Licensed Psychotherapist
Individuals • Couples • Adolescents • Children
Psychotherapy and Divorce Mediation
Addiction Counseling
75 Main Street Cold Spring, NY 10516
lynneward99@gmail.com
(917) 597-6905

BARBARA SMITH GIOIA
November 1st - December 1st
BUSTER LEVI
GALLERY
121 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York
Saturday and Sunday 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.
BUSTERLEVIGALLERY.COM

Lillian Rosengarten, LCSW
Highly Experienced, Compassionate
Individual, Couples.
Grief, Loss, Marital, Depression
298 East Mtn Rd South, Cold Spring 10516, NY
lillirose@optonline.net | (845) 265-2856

ALLENS DUMPSTER SERVICE
LOCATED IN COLD SPRING, NY
(646) 772-2673
allens-dumpster-service.business.site



Ruth Elwell (1946-2024)

Ruth Levin Elwell died peacefully at her home in Cold Spring, New York, on Oct. 28, 2024. She was 78 years old.

Ruth was born in Chicago in 1946 and grew up in the nearby suburb of Winnetka, Illinois. She attended New Trier High School, which she hated, and dropped out of college in her first semester because she received an A on a paper that she felt was undeserved. At 19 she married Bruce Elwell, whom she met through the student group LRY, and they moved to Philadelphia and then New York City, where their son Tristan was born in 1968. After the end of her marriage, she raised Tristan as a single mother in Manhattan and worked in publishing as freelance book indexer.

After surviving breast cancer in the 1980s, she worked as a volunteer supporting other women through diagnosis and treatment. She also worked on several documentary films on subjects that included Ellis Island and the Fresh Kills Landfill, which led her to return to school and receive her degree in film studies from Empire State College in 1992.

She moved to New Paltz, New York, where she volunteered at the local library and was a member of the Planning Board for many years. One of her proudest achievements was her part in establishing the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail.

In 2011 Ruth suffered a stroke and moved to Cold Spring to live with Tristan and his family. She made a remarkable recovery and continued her service in her new community, serving on the board of the Chapel Restoration and volunteering at the Julia Butterfield Library. Although declining health limited her activities in recent years, she had been working on programming a series on under-appreciated films at the library.

Ruth leaves behind her son, Tristan Elwell, daughter-in-lawCarolynn Cobleigh, granddaughter Mina Soriano-Elwell, granddaughter-in-law Angelica Soriano-Elwell, sister Carole Levin and niece Rohana Elias-Reyes.

Her sharp wit, candor and unfaltering commitment to the people and causes she championed are already terribly missed. Although never religious, in her time in Cold Spring, Ruth developed a deep spiritual connection to the Hudson River. Those wishing to offer their thoughts for Ruth to the wider universe should plan accordingly.

Details for a Celebration of Life will be provided by the family at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library (butterfieldlibrary.org/donate) would be greatly appreciated.

PAID NOTICE

Sal Cumella (1929-2024)

Salvatore Cumella, 95, the son of Sicilian immigrants who co-owned the Dorel Hat Co. in Beacon, died Sept. 26.

With his mentor, Mr. John, Sal made hats for, among others, Judy Garland, Aretha Marlene Dietrich and Carol Channing, and he snuck remnants to Gypsy Rose Lee.

He started his hat manufacturing company and continued until he retired at 75. His various labels were Mr. John, Adolfo, Halston and Oscar de la Renta. With his partner, Ramon Moreno, he managed a thriving business in Beacon even after hats were no longer fashionable.

Sal designed, sewed, blocked and trimmed hats. He took apart sewing machines, gambled on inventory, negotiated government contracts and ran a factory and showroom. One of his hats, handmade for Oscar de la Renta, is in the permanent costume collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Once he left the business, Sal realized there was a market for “church lady” hats, and he began making hats for Saks and hats for mom-and-pop shops like Hats for the Holy Woman.

Sal also served in the U.S. Army. He is survived by his son, Thomas, and his stepchildren, Joann and James. His wife Joan, daughter Joanne and second wife Terry died earlier.

Memorial donations may be made to



the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (aspca.org). A graveside service with military honors was held at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Newburgh on Oct. 2.

Willis Stephens (1925-2024)

Willis H. Stephens, 99, who represented Putnam and parts of Dutchess and Westchester counties in the state Assembly for 30 years, died Oct. 17 at Putnam Hospital Center.

He was born June 7, 1925, in Danbury, Connecticut, the son of D. Mallory and Grace (Hine) Stephens. After attending Brewster schools, he graduated from The Lawrenceville School in New Jersey in 1943, then enrolled at Princeton University but deferred to enlist in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He served as a flight instructor and attained the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. At the end of World War II, he returned to Princeton and earned a bachelor’s degree in economics in 1950.

After college, Willis joined Maust Coal and Coke Corp., brokers of industrial fuels. In 1959, he formed The W. H. Stephens Corporation and sold coal and oil to major industries and utilities in the northeast U.S.

On Nov. 24, 1951, he married Daphne Dunbar in Marblehead, Massachusetts. They moved to Brewster, where they raised their four sons. Daphne died in 2006.

Following his father’s footsteps, he was elected to the state Legislature in 1952 and



served until 1982.

Willis served as a member of the organizing committee for the 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid. A lifelong outdoorsman, he enjoyed hunting and fishing in the Adirondacks and Canada. He also loved golf.

Willis is survived by his sons Daniel Stephens (Sharon), Willis Stephens Jr. (Virginia), Gardner Stephens and Jonathan Stephens (Kristin), six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother, Mallory Stephens (Dolores).

A funeral service was held Oct. 22 at Christ Church in Pawling, followed by interment at Maple Avenue Cemetery in Patterson.

Other Recent Deaths

<i>Beacon</i>	
Frank Carey, 71	Maria Perrette, 69
Emily Forbes, 92	Sue Randall, 65
John Halvey, 79	Peter Ruf, 63
Adele Henry, 71	Don Seher, 79
Fred Holmes, 77	Emil Sjolholm, 94
David Marinaccio, 57	Dorothy Smith, 82
Meem Morgan, 78	Linda Yanarella-Olivo, 76
Bob Murk, 75	
<i>Philipstown</i>	
Phebe Bassett, 82	Diana Sanchez-Malon, 80
Ruth Elwell, 78	Marilyn Schlosser, 88
Joe Marchese, 67	Augustine Silvestro, 75
Patricia Quinn Moss, 67	

HIGHLAND STUDIO

PRINTMAKERS

FINE ART
PRINTING
SCANNING
LARGE FORMAT

HUDSON VALLEY'S
ARCHIVAL PRINTING
SINCE 1997

PICTURE FRAMING
print & map gallery

845-809-5174

31 STEPHANIE LANE
COLD SPRING, NY
www.thehighlandstudio.com

PIDALA OIL CO. IS FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED,
SERVICING THE COLD SPRING, GARRISON AND
SURROUNDING AREAS FOR NEARLY FOUR DECADES.

PIDALA

OIL CO., INC.

OIL HEAT • PROPANE • DIESEL FUEL

3524 ROUTE 9 | PO BOX 249
COLD SPRING, NY

• Automatic Oil & Propane Deliveries

• Budget Plans - Service Contracts

• Furnace / Boiler Installations

• 24-hour Emergency Service

• BBQ tanks filled at our site

• Licensed Technicians

PIDALAOIL.COM | 845.265.2073

Credit and debit cards accepted

Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

1	2	3			4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11			12		13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19		20		21				
			22		23		24			25	26	27
28	29	30				31		32				
33					34		35		36			
37				38		39		40				
41					42		43					
			44			45		46		47	48	49
50	51	52			53		54		55			
56					57				58			
59					60					61		

- ACROSS
1. Newt

4. Former Delta rival

7. Very dry

11. Bjorn of tennis fame

13. Documentarian Burns

14. Portrayal

15. Afrikaner

16. Fire sign?

17. Pinnacle

18. Lieu

20. Trumpet

22. Actress Vardalos

24. Trite

28. Basking venue

32. Skiing spot

33. Twistable treat

34. TV’s Danson

36. Autobahn auto

37. Open-mouthed

39. Swiss cheese

41. Wards off

43. Resort

44. Pleasing

46. Batter’s dry spell

50. Spiced tea

53. Vitamin stat

55. Bangkok cuisine

56. Hayloft site

57. Whatever

58. Christmas

59. Unforeseen problem

60. Skillet

61. Chart-topping song
- DOWN
1. Recedes

2. Shoe insert

3. Shade provider

4. — -la-la

5. Desire

6. Sneeze sound

7. Basis for repeat purchases

8. Sinbad’s bird

9. City on the Danube

10. Golf peg

12. Banner at a new store

19. Conk out

21. Kidnapped monogram

23. Play part

25. Aspiration

26. Mimic

27. Prefix with conference

28. Fly high

29. Incite

30. Tide type

31. Small barrel

35. Hosp. workers

38. Football’s Manning

40. Boom times

42. Discard

45. — St. Vincent Millay

47. “Nope!”

48. Algeria’s neighbor

49. Artist Mondrian

50. CSI airer

51. Solo in space

52. Altar constellation

54. Novelist Rand

SUDOCURRENT

			2			8		5
4			1	6				
	6	5						
			6	3	7			
							4	9
	5				9		3	
	2	4	9			1		
7								
6	9	8		5				7

WORDLADDER

Can you go from FLIPS to PLEAD in 6 words?
Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

FLIPS

PLEAD

WORDSEARCH

B	Y	P	P	C	P	Q	A	G	D
B	A	A	Z	U	M	O	N	T	M
R	A	T	H	L	N	K	W	W	O
J	G	U	T	T	Y	D	U	I	N
E	K	K	Y	L	Z	K	W	S	O
N	P	S	R	J	E	E	U	T	P
G	T	I	R	K	D	S	E	E	O
A	S	R	O	Y	K	Z	H	R	L
J	Y	N	S	H	D	U	G	I	Y
O	P	E	R	A	T	I	O	N	P

© 2024 King Features

GRASP

ARETHA

SINEAD

IME

DEWS

ESSES

GOLFPRO

UNIS

AFT

ROADIE

DONORS

TYROS

TEXTS

UBERED

ROSIER

CS

MOTE

PROCTOR

OUR

TASTE

ECOL

ROM

AVIATE

VESPER

ESTER

Answers for Nov. 22 Puzzles

C

V

T

S

E

V

R

A

H

S

F

R

G

J

W

D

T

F

I

T

O

D

A

I

S

W

U

A

E

U

O

G

T

N

Y

Z

W

P

M

F

T

R

I

U

B

L

X

J

F

B

A

P

S

R

E

I

C

J

I

A

V

T

V

C

K

R

M

F

N

L

Y

M

Y

F

Y

E

R

A

G

L

M

F

Z

I

Z

R

Y

Y

F

L

E

F

T

O

V

E

R

S

C

BASES, CASES, CASTS,

COSTS, COATS, CHATS

Sponsor

this page!

Email

ads@highlandscurrent.org



Haldane's Owen Powers finished 161st in the 5,000 meters at the NY Federation Championships. Photo provided

Powers Caps Season at Federation Championships

Owen Powers, a junior on Haldane's cross-country team, competed Nov. 23 in the NY Federation Championships at Bowdoin Park in Wappingers Falls, finishing 161st in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 17:58.10.

The event capped a successful cross-country season for the Blue Devils. Haldane finished second at the North Championships for the first time, and Powers became the first Blue Devil runner to finish first. The boys' team won the league championship and the girls finished as runner-ups. The fourth-place finish for the boys in the state championships is their best in school history.



Small, Good Things

Ever Thankful

By Joe Dizney

*Some hae meat and canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it
But we hae meat and we can eat
And sae the Lord be thankit.*

"The Selkirk Grace" is a 17th-century blessing that I first came across engraved into the rustic white pine walls of the country dining room of a cabin on a lake in New Hampshire, owned for generations by my former wife's family. It was their grace of choice for any feast day, in particular, Thanksgiving.



Although Thanksgiving has conflicting sentimental and revisionist histories, feasting has become as codified as the competitive consumerist events (football, basketball, hockey and Black Friday). A roughly typical menu:

- Roast turkey — crisp and juicy (decidedly *not* the haggis of Burns' Day on Jan. 25, when "The Selkirk Grace" is often recited)
- Cranberry sauce, homemade or that

deep-red canned jelly

- A bread-based stuffing or mashed- or candy-like sweet potatoes, depending on heredity (and maybe both)
- Questionable vegetable virtue-signaling with green bean casserole or Brussels sprouts
- Pie (apple or pecan) with whipped cream

Although every family has its idiosyncratic variations, you can always count on the turkey (our national bird, pardoned or not) and cranberries. You can also count on an almost religious (and equally idiosyncratic) fervor to the preparation and presentation of all the food that usually means no one will leave the groaning board unsated.

And you can usually count on leftovers, the unspoken glory of the feast. Even Friendsgiving guests will go home with a doggy bag for the weekend.

The catalyst for this week's column is just that, not so much a recipe as a strategy: Let's call it The Gobbler. Think of it more as an overstuffed grilled cheese sandwich, taking advantage of whatever turkey you have, with just enough cranberry sauce to act as relish for the turkey and membrillo substitute for the cheese.

Left to my own devices, I'd chop up a bit of the roasted Brussels sprouts and shallots and add them to the stack, but you can always use Thanksgiving sides as day-after sides and be thankful once again for the bounty that you are privileged to.

The Gobbler

For one. Multiply as needed.

2 slices	Cranberry sauce
sourdough bread	Cheese of choice*
Dijon mustard	grated on the large
Mayonnaise	holes of grater
Thinly sliced or	Room temperature
shredded turkey	unsalted butter

1. Place the two slices of bread side by side on a cutting board. Spread mayonnaise on one slice, Dijon mustard on the other.

2. Layer about 1/2- to 3/4-inch of turkey on mayonnaise-slathered slice. Press lightly. Top with 1/4- to 1/2-cup cranberry sauce. Top with 1/4- to 1/2-inch shredded cheese and lay the mustard-slathered slice over the cheese, mustard side down. Press deliberately, but not too hard, to firm up the sandwich. Clean up the edges, because something is sure to ooze. Clean cutting board.

3. Heat a skillet that will fit your sandwich over medium to medium-low heat (you don't want it too hot) while you butter the exposed top and bottom sides of the sandwich.

4. Place the sandwich in the heated pan with the turkey layer on the bottom. Press lightly with a spatula and cook for a few minutes until browned, checking regularly to ensure it's not cooking too fast or burning. When browned on the bottom, carefully flip the sandwich and repeat browning process. (If you have a cover, that will help the cheese melt.)

5. When sufficiently browned, flip the sandwich carefully once more to briefly reheat the other side. Transfer to a cutting board and let cool for a minute or so. Cut in half and serve with a plain green salad or other warmed leftovers. Repeat as many times as necessary.

*Note: I like aged Gouda, or try an Alpine cheese like Jarlsberg, Emmental, Gruyère, Appenzeller or French Comté, Italian Asiago or Montasio, or even a good farmhouse cheddar.

Winter Glow

AT WINTER HILL

Join us as we celebrate the winter holidays and light the lights on our 80 foot pine.

December 5, 2024
5:30pm - 7pm
20 Nazareth Way
Garrison, NY 10524

Hosted by

Free! Scan the QR code to RSVP

hhlt.org · <https://hhltwinterglow24.eventbrite.com>

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 7:30PM

Jonathan Kruk in "A Christmas Carol"

With Erika the Harpist

TOMPKINS CORNERS CULTURAL CENTER

ADDRESS:
729 Peekskill Hollow Rd, Putnam Valley, NY
WEB:
tompkinscorners.org